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THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

A GERMAN ERASTIAN.

Almost all the utterances of Prince Bismarck, whether official or casual, are characterised by an ostentatious frankness, and a studied bluntness, which leave us considerably in doubt as to how far the speaker has really admitted us into his confidence. Like polished marble, he has a sort of transparency of surface which makes us almost wholly forgetful of the deep solid opacity of the sturdy and impenetrable nature behind. Still, where no object is to be gained by concealment, we may safely accept the Prince's easy talk as the revelation of his view of the world. The transparency of polished marble may be delusive, but at any rate the play of light upon it shows the grain and veining which pervade the stone. Now in the interview at Kissingen with certain Protestant clergymen from Würtemberg—an account of which was published recently in a Leipsic paper and forwarded by the *Times* correspondent—there was no occasion for any diplomatic craft, and the whole conversation on the Prince's side was of so thoroughly worldly a character, that we can have no difficulty in believing it to represent his real ideas on the relation of churches to the Government.

The first part of the conversation turned on the Falck Laws. The Wurtemberg clergymen assured the Prince that in their country the Catholics gave no trouble to the Government. On this the Prince remarked that "in Wurtemberg then the Catholic Church calmly acquiesced in what was denounced as wholly unacceptable in Prussia." He added also that this difference in the policy of the Papal See was all the more remarkable, because in Prussia the Wurtemberg system had been accepted by the Pope down to 1840. He then proceeded to narrate the changes which after that time took place in the position of the Catholic Church, and necessitated the recent revolution in the ecclesiastical laws. He asserted that the favour of the Radziwill family encouraged "soft-spoken and benevolent Jesuits" to make the best of their opportunities. A separate Catholic Department was established in the ministry of ecclesiastical affairs. In the days of political unrest that followed 1848, the Catholic priests, who are always at heart opposed to popular liberty, were, it appears, amongst the firmest supporters of the Prussian tyranny. Such services merited a reward, and the consequence was "that the Catholic Church at last occupied a more dominant position in Prussia than anywhere else." Afterwards it came to pass that the priests thought it more to the advantage of their cause to intrigue against German unity; and where two nationalities existed, as in the eastern districts containing the fragments of dismembered Poland, such intrigues were felt to be dangerous. The language of Prince Bismarck on this point leaves us under the impression that if the Poles were allowed to speak for themselves it would be seen that there is another side to the question. He tells us that "whole German districts were Polonised by the priests forcing the Polish language upon church and school." It is possible that the Catholics of those parts might have something very unpleasant to say about *Polish* districts being *Germanised by* the secular officials forcing the German language upon church and school. But then, in the view of Prince Bismarck, the main purpose of a church is to afford support to the Government. The Catholics, on the other hand, regard it as the main purpose of a Government to afford support to the Church. Reconciliation was, therefore, and will probably remain, impossible. Hence the necessity of the Falck Laws. It is surprising to hear that Prince Bismarck did not wholly approve those laws, but was unable to amend them, owing to the pressure brought to bear against him. But it should be remembered that he was now speaking to Protestant clergymen, who are by no means satisfied with the subjection of their brethren to laws that may be all very well for Papists. In particular this great Erastian apologised for the introduction of "civil marriage." It was not quite in accordance with his mind. Not that he had any scruples on the subject. Of course not; it would be interesting to know anything about which he *has* scruples. But "he did not like to shake veneration for an ancient usage sanctioned by Christianity; and he did not like to offend the feelings of honest and loyal people who possibly might be excited and thrown into consternation by the innovation." This is a good instance of the patronising condescension and unprincipled expediency with which Erastianism affects to treat the spiritual life of man. For "Christianity" in the above quotation we ought to read ecclesiastical fashion; for we really do not know in what properly authoritative document of Christianity marriages are required to be celebrated in church. But to the Erastian, ecclesiastical fashion is everything, provided only that it can be adapted to the purposes of Government. Then as to the "honest and loyal people" who are thrown into consternation—why should they be allowed to tyrannise over the equally honest and loyal people, however few in number, who think civil marriage to be sufficient for them? Ecclesiastical marriage is not forbidden. And it gives an interesting insight into Prince Bismarck's notions of religious equality that he should have wished to maintain it as compulsory because certain bigots, important by numbers or influence, believed that it ought to be so.

The Prince was highly complimentary to the Evangelical Church, and for reasons very characteristic of the speaker. The Protestant Establishment "had never thrown any difficulties in the way of the State; it had, on the contrary, supported and strengthened the State." That, we imagine, is also with English Erastians one of the strongest arguments for supporting the Establishment. If the word State were always synonymous with order and freedom, there would be much force in the argument; for certainly the true purpose of the Church is to glorify God by serving humanity. But unfortunately what Prince Bismarck means by the State is a power adverse to and subversive of individuality of character amongst the million; and it is precisely this evil aspect of the State which political establishments of religion have all but universally, and all but uniformly, favoured and supported. The use of such an argument therefore is characteristic of the Erastianism which sees in religion nothing more than a tool of Statecraft. The Prince made a very pregnant remark when he said, that "to the Protestant Church Presbyterian government is essential." The latter epithet is of course not to be taken in the sectarian sense which excludes the independence of separate congregations. Nor indeed need it exclude such a form of Episcopacy as exists in one branch of the Methodist Church in America. What it does exclude is the "consecration" which is supposed to give to one Christian minister an exceptional sanctity and to make him a miraculous link in the chain of apostolical tradition. Such Episcopacy is indeed essentially inconsistent with Protestantism; and all the troubles of the Anglican Church at the present day go to show this. The Prince was less happy in his affectation of indifference, toward the controversies on theological doctrine which in Germany are maintained on both sides with equal protection from the Government. He evidently regarded the humdrum orthodoxy of his beer-imbibing fellow-countrymen as a law of nature which no heretical books could disturb. The orthodoxy which requires no more than a Church attendance on two ecclesiastical festivals in the year would not be of much account in this country. Our people see things more earnestly, whether for good or evil. And the cynical indifference which regards the studies of Tübingen as the whimsies of eccentric professors, would be as much out of place amongst us as the Erastianism which values the Church only as a buttress to the Government.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY, 1662.

II.

In our last number we brought down our historical sketch to the passing of the Act of Uniformity, which was the sharpened sword that was to be used with unsparing vigour on St. Bartholomew's Day. This celebrated statute re-enacted all the ceremonies formerly prescribed, and fastened them tight on the back not of every Churchman merely but of every British subject. It required assent and consent to all and everything within the covers of the Prayer-book, including the prayers about King Charles the Martyr, which have only of late disappeared from it. It required Presbyterian and Independent ministers to abjure their ordination, to disown the Covenant, to swear the absurd and wicked oath of allegiance to the existing King, however bad and unconstitutional his conduct might be, and to be admitted afresh to holy orders by apostolical succession hands. Baxter awoke, and observed that the Church had become a prison in which he would not stay. Howe, being pleaded with by a bishop to whom he had shown kindness in the days of Puritan power to allow himself to be episcopally ordained, smilingly begged his friend not to press on him a logical and natural absurdity—for how could he receive more authority as a minister of Christ than he had already?

The Act of Uniformity passed into law on May 19, 1662, and three months—a very short period considering the state of the postal service at that time—were allowed till it must be finally executed. What was to come of it?

As for the King, some think he disliked it, or disliked the public infamy of violating his Breda and October declarations so soon and so thoroughly. Mr. Hallam, Lord Macaulay, and others are of opinion that these declarations were tricks, and so think the greater number of authorities. Perhaps they are right, for Charles was a very much worse man than his father—worse than any king England has ever had, except his brother who succeeded him. Charles I. was perfidious; but he made his lying a sort of religion, and in deceiving the nation had first deceived himself. Besides, he was a good husband and father, and he died well; but his son had no sense of right and wrong at all. He treated the profession of virtue by man or woman as only a pleasant device by which clever people raised the price at which they meant to sell honour and chastity. With plenty of ability he lived a life of idle self-indulgence; and if anything like conscience ventured to disturb him, he took a dose of Popery which he kept in a closet for the purpose. As Mr. Bayne says, "His best quality was that easy humour, that indolent facility, that capricious and fickle generosity, which is apt, as Mr. Thackeray remarks, to distinguish ladies and gentlemen whose views of life correspond generally with those of Nell Gwynne." So much for the King.

What came of it for the men of virtuous lives, or earnest religious principle, called Puritans? The 24th of August was fixed as the day on which every incumbent must pronounce his full submission from the pulpit. Failing to do that, he was to cease, *ipso facto*, to be connected with the Church, and became an outlaw. He was not allowed a single farthing to maintain himself, he was deprived of the last year's stipend for which he had worked—(for these were not our palmy days of the three C's—compounded, commuted, and cut!) he was not allowed to preach, or to act as a tutor or schoolmaster. The issue could not be doubtful. When the St. Bartholomew's Day of 1662 came, two thousand men took all these consequences as of course, and obeyed God rather than men. They were the flower of the Church of England; they were the majority of the ministers of London and of the large towns; they were the men of learning, ability and character; yet the Church thus deliberately cast them out. The jails were soon full; fines and distraint were the order of the day; many sought asylum in Holland and New England; some were bold enough to remonstrate. The King thereupon issued a proclamation in which he graciously announced his intention to use his royal prerogative by way of saving from the operation of the Act those who would "modestly and without scandal perform their devotions in their own way." But Parliament when it met repudiated his proclamation with vehemence, rightly suspecting that its intention was to cover, not Nonconformists, but Papists. Instead of relief there came in 1664 the Conventicle Act, which ordained fine, imprisonment, and banishment as the lot of all who should hold religious meetings of more than five persons; and a host of informers sprang up to watch the family worship of suspected persons. Next year came the draconic Five-Mile Act, forbidding any of the ejected ministers to go within five miles of the place in which he had formerly exercised his office.

But why dwell on the immediate results—on the poverty, misery, banishment, heartbreaking distress which St. Bartholomew's Day brought on men whom the nation ought to have honoured and cherished? For, serious as these evils were, they were as nothing compared with the evils which the Act of Uniformity brought on the institution it re-established and on the country at large. While the Church lost a fifth part of its ministry, it lost nearly the whole of that party which had, since the Reformation, been zealous for vital godliness. The expulsion of these men was—in the words of a son of the Church of England, Mr. Greene, examiner in the School of Modern History at Oxford, in his recent excellent "History of the English People"—"the close of an effort which had been going on ever since Elizabeth's accession to bring the English communion into closer relations with the Reformed communions of the Continent, and into greater harmony with the religious instincts of the nation at large. The Church of England stood from that moment isolated and alone among all the churches of the Christian world. The Reformation had severed it irretrievably from those who still clung to the obedience of the Papacy. By its rejection of all but Episcopal orders, the Act of Uniformity severed it as irretrievably from the general body of the Protestant churches, whether Lutheran or Reformed. . . . . With the expulsion of the Puritan clergy, all change, all efforts after reform, all national development, *suddenly stopped*. From that time to this the Episcopal Church has been unable to meet the varying spiritual needs of its adherents by any modification of its government or its worship" (p. 610). This is a heavy sentence of condemnation, but every day is proving it to be true.

The effect on the nation was deplorable. The Church, having been constituted absolute, both threw away the power of being an agent for promoting common morality, and deprived those whom it persecuted for conscience' sake of that power. The state of society during the quarter-of-a-century following the Restoration was such as can hardly be spoken of in plain terms. Ribald poets, the titles of whose works Macaulay says it would be indecent to quote, were pampered and applauded, while Bunyan lay for twelve years in Bedford Jail. It is not pleasant to think of, seeing that the titles have since been worn with honour, but it is written on the open page of history that the Dukedoms of Cleveland, Buccleuch, Portsmouth, and St. Albans represent historically the shame of Barbara Palmer, Lucy Walters, Louise de Querouaille, and Nell Gwynne, and the deeper infamy of Charles and his Government. The Plague followed; and then the ousted ministers crept from their hiding-places, and did unhindered the work others should have done. The Great Fire succeeded; still there was no reformation.

In 1672, however, the Indulgence was proclaimed, and although it was withdrawn in 1673, so soon as the purpose of Charles thereby to let in Papists was found out, thousands of godly men had in the meantime came out from the prisons—Bunyan among others. It gives one a startling idea of the state of things to find the number of Quakers alone who were now set free represented as ten thousand.

A quiet but mighty reaction was going on over the whole country; for the effects of the persecuting Acts on the Puritans themselves, however painful, were really wholesome. They threshed them free of the chaff of canting hypocrites who had gathered about them in the days of their power; they united them to other Nonconformists in charity, if not in form; they taught them to relinquish the broken reed of Egypt as a prop for spiritual power, and to lean more on the arm of a living Head who heareth prayer. While the nation was disgraced and the Government weakened by extreme impurity in high places, the leaven of Gospel truth was telling among the mass of the people. Ten editions of the "Pilgrim's Progress" were sold between 1672 and 1688: other writings of the Puritans were widely diffused; a generation grew up amongst whom it was proved that, even though a monster like Judge Jefferies might bully, transport, enslave, and hang hundreds of the purest in the land, Gospel truth is a thing which cannot be killed, however its representatives may be abused.

Charles died in 1685, and his brother James came to the throne, a Roman Catholic and a libertine, adding evil qualities all his own to those which he inherited. Men learned in the days of the Bloody Assizes to modify their opinions considerably as to the divine right of kings to do anything. The three short years of James's reign closed the Stuart tyranny for ever, and closed also, in so far as the Constitutional Government of England was concerned, the reign of Anglican persecution. Having quite removed from the minds of all who had to do with him the last vestige of respect for his person and of confidence in his word, and his subjects having invited his good daughter Mary and her husband, William of Orange, to come and reign over them in his stead, James II. got out of England in a manner suitably ridiculous.

Modern England dates from the coming of the joint sovereigns. Mary was a noble woman, to whom full justice has, perhaps, not been done—true to her sex, true to her husband, true to her country, true to her God. The account of her death by small-pox is one of the best pages in the chequered pages of English history. William, though he had few attractive personal qualities, was a man of comparatively good character, of high intelligence, just, brave to a fault, and gifted with the genius of governing men. To him and to his wife our country owes lasting gratitude. There was none of William's successors to be compared with him until that illustrious lady ascended the throne under whom it is our high privilege to live, enjoying from her pure Christian example and influence many blessings for which our fathers prayed but did not see.

The Toleration Act was the best gift of William to England. It served for this country the purpose which the Revolution Settlement served for Scotland. These two pieces of legislation were the roots of all that has been most hopeful in the subsequent history of the Church on both sides of the Tweed; yet they were far from being perfect. It was supposed that the Revolution Settlement contained a full recognition of the Church's spiritual independence, and the fragment of Presbyterianism forming the present Established Church of Scotland clings somewhat desperately to that opinion. But the secessions of Gillespie and the Erskines, the magnificent exodus of 1843, the very recent abolition of patronage—*not* by the Church but by the State—and the most significant demand for disestablishment which Scotland is now making, seem pretty good evidence that the Settlement, however good in other respects, was defective in respect of spiritual independence. Similarly, the Toleration Act was glaringly defective, inasmuch as it left the iniquitous Act of Uniformity in full force; but, on the other hand, it has allowed scope for the growth of so much free earnest religious life, outside and even inside the Establishment, that we may hope, before the nineteenth century runs out, to see the Act of Uniformity put away beside the Maiden and the thumbscrew—a thing to be examined by our children with shuddering wonder that it should have been allowed to exist in the days of their fathers. Lord Macaulay says that William desired "to make such changes in the Anglican ritual and polity as, without offending those to whom that ritual and polity were dear, might reconcile the moderate Nonconformists," and significantly adds that "he came too late" for that. Certainly, too late by a full century. Had Elizabeth been less like her father Henry, and more like her good earnest brother, Edward VI., Anglicanism would never have existed—in other words, the Church of England would have been formed with a ritual and polity in which no compromise with Popish tendencies was attempted. But her long reign gave to priestly Churchism a settled form and the semblance of authority. James and Charles I. and Laud impressed the deep fixed mark of exclusion and Sacramentarian pride on the ritual and polity of the Church; and their successors in the days of the Revolution and of the Restoration, took pains to provide that there should be no change for the better. The result is that that singular institution, the Anglican Establishment, is the pitiful thing we see it to-day—an institution in which the majority, who would like to maintain Christian truth and liberty, find themselves fettered by their own Constitution, while the minority, who will have nothing but priestly sacrifice, priestly authority, and priestly confession, have decidedly the best of it so far as the Church's own laws and history are concerned. But, thanks to the immense growth of intelligent and earnest religion since the Toleration Act, the English nation is not identical with the Anglican Establishment. Not only that enactment, but the State-Church itself, has in this day become an anachronism. The work so nobly begun by our forefathers some two centuries ago has to be perfected, and can only be completed by the substitution of full religious liberty for toleration. A Free Episcopal Church, as well as Free Nonconformist Churches, can alone bring that principle into effective operation; and in attempting to realise that great object, for which national opinion is ripening, we may find a powerful stimulus in the self-sacrifice, patience, and devotion of the heroes of our English Bartholomew's Day.

THE HIGH-CHURCH PARTY AND THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

It was hardly likely that the remarks of the Registrar-General on civil marriages in his recent report, to which we called attention, would escape adverse criticism. We all know what consideration Nonconformists receive at the hands of Endowed School and Charity Commissioners, and other Government boards and departments. It is the regular thing to snub them, and when, as rarely happens, any high official does venture, in the exercise of his high functions, to run athwart the pretensions of the clergy, how bitter are the sneers and outspoken the abuse heaped upon him by ecclesiastical snobbery. As our readers may remember, Major Graham, whose office it is to see to the proper carrying out of the Civil Marriages Act, ventured to remark and to express regret "that any clergyman of the Established Church should be found to tell his parishioners, married according to the laws of the land, that they are not properly married, as that implies that they are living in a state of fornication, and that their children are illegitimate." The *Daily Express*, which, as our readers are aware, is the organ of the High-Church party, asks where such a clergyman "so utterly silly" is to be found. If our contemporary were not so very juvenile, he might have known that there have been prosecutions—or threatened prosecutions—for re-marriages by clergymen under such circumstances, and if he had been familiar with the events of the last few years he would be aware that there have

been a good many High-Church clergymen who have denounced civil marriages as "most improper"—that is, who try to bring the law into contempt. Our contemporary then proceeds to attack the Registrar-General in the following coarse fashion:—

The fact is really that the people who get married in a registrar's office do so in nine cases out of ten to conceal their marriage, and Major Graham's argument is absurdly weak. We draw attention to his foolish diatribe for the simple reason that it can hardly be right from any point of view that the head of a great public department should use his position as a means of attacking the Church of England. It may be, as was said some time ago, that Major Graham is but acting up to his rights as a member of the Presbyterian body in thus placing himself in direct hostility to a "prelatical Establishment"; but in a case like the present there is something else to be considered besides the major's individual predilections. He is the head of a great department of the State, the ramifications of which extend into every town and village of England. It cannot, therefore, be tolerated that he should display this anxious hostility to the English Church, influencing thereby, as of necessity he must do, so great a multitude of officials all over the country. Those who are acquainted with the rural districts know but too well that the district registrar is almost as a rule taken from the lower stratum of the middle classes, that he is not unfrequently a Dissenter of the narrower and more bitter type, and that under such influences as those which are indicated in Major Graham's report he needs but little pressure to develop into a strenuous opponent of the Church, with all the prestige which may be conferred by his official position. This, we repeat, is not a desirable state of things.

As it is truly said Major Graham is "the head of a great department of the State," and it is in *that* capacity, and with a view to give better effect to an Act of Parliament which he is charged to carry out, that his strictures upon the reprehensible conduct of some of the clergy are founded. The question is, not whether the Registrar-General appoints Dissenting district registrars, but whether a considerable section of the clergy obstruct or misrepresent the law. Judging alone from the tone of the *Daily Express*, Mr. Graham's allegations must be well-founded, as our contemporary, instead of meeting them, attacks the accuser for simply doing his duty. Does this imperious representative of clerical monopoly think that high officials hold office only to obey the behests, or meekly to put up with the unauthorised claims of the State-Church? To our thinking the laity of England in general — quite apart from Nonconformists as a separate section of the community—are under great obligations to Major Graham for his rare faithfulness and moral courage, which becomes of increasing value as the claims of the clergy to sacerdotal functions grow more and more outspoken.

PRINCE BISMARCK UPON ULTRAMONTANISM AND PROTESTANTISM.

A full report has been published in the Leipsic journal *Daheim*, of the interview between Prince Bismarck and some Würtemberg Protestant clergymen at Kissingen, of which a brief telegraphic summary has recently been published.

The clerical gentlemen having frankly avowed that their motive in coming to Kissingen was to see the Prince, the latter, after a few courteous remarks, turned the conversation upon ecclesiastical affairs. One of the clergymen, in answer to the Prince's inquiry, remarked that outwardly at least the Catholic Church was at peace with the Wurtemberg Government, when the Prince held forth in this wise:—

"And yet you have the same ecclesiastical legislation as Prussia. In Wurtemberg, then, the Catholic Church calmly acquiesces in what is denounced as wholly unacceptable in Prussia. This difference in the policy of the Papal See is still more remarkable when we come to consider that in Prussia, too, we lived at peace with the Vatican until 1840, though under institutions similar to your own. There were certainly collisions from time to time, yet, on the whole, the Pope was on friendly terms with the King. Unfortunately, a change supervened during the reign of his late Majesty Frederick William IV. A Roman Catholic family belonging to the highest aristocracy of the land (Radziwill, one of whose ancestors married a Prussian princess fifty years ago) profited by the circumstances of the time to secure to the Catholic Church in the kingdom a privileged position. You are aware that in the troublous days of 1848, when the first symptoms of a Socialistic movement came to the surface, the elections in the strictly orthodox wards were Conservative and highly acceptable to the Government. This rendering the Government disposed to strengthen the Catholic Church, a special Catholic Department was established in the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs to regulate the relations between Church and State. The members of this department, though belonging to the Prussian Civil Service, were, so to say, serfs to the Radziwill family. Soft-spoken and benevolent Jesuits were thus afforded an opportunity of siding with the Government. Daily gaining ground, the Catholic Church at last occupied a more dominant position in Prussia than anywhere else. Our relations with the Pope gradually became so unendurable that if His Holiness had sent a Nuncio to lord it over us, we should, comparatively speaking, have been better off. The relations between Church and State would then, at any rate, have been perfectly clear. As it was, the Catholic Department, which had been established to represent the King in our dealings with the Pope, at length actually vindicated the interests of the Pope against the King. The aims and objects of the Ultramontane agitation, commenced under cover of these institutions, soon began to show themselves in those of our provinces where there are two nationalities. In Posen, West Prussia, &c., whole German districts were Polonised by the priests forcing the Polish language upon church and school; as soon as the inhabitants were cut off from the German language, Press, and culture, they became Ultramontane and were converted into passive tools by the clergy. The Church thus interfering with national and political affairs, it devolved upon me to take note of what was going on. I first applied to a bishop inquiring whether to be a good Catholic it was absolutely necessary to be a Pole, or whether to be a German was incompatible with belief in the Roman creed. I went the length of offering to this rev. prelate the Archiepiscopal See of Posen; but the offer was declined on the plea that he did not understand any Polish. Well, Count Ledochowsky, who subsequently became Archbishop of Posen, having been brought up in Rome, did not understand a word of Polish either; but he learnt it subsequently. Meanwhile the 'Polonisation' of the German districts in our semi-Polish provinces was vigorously continued, until at last I objected to that sort of thing, and caused the Catholic Department to be done away with. This, amounting to a declaration of war, raised a fearful storm against us in Ultramontane circles. Every effort was made to add to the numbers of the Ultramontane party in Parliament. Some malcontents, former Ministers, Under-Secretaries of State, &c., did not scruple to second the efforts of the clerical Opposition. The conflict thus assumed a more extensive ranrge, and the Government were necessitated to have ecourse to the Legislature. The May laws were enacted. I cannot say that I approve every item enacted in these laws, but I contend that, upon the whole, they answer the purpose, and are a strong wall of defence in this inevitable conflict with the Papacy. By virtue of these laws we have recovered the position we gave up in 1830. We have taken back what was our own up to that date. We can now afford to stand upon the defensive, and to wait for what is to be.

"As to the Evangelical Church (this is the name of the Protestant Establishment of the kingdom of Prussia), it has never thrown any difficulties in the way of the State. It has, on the contrary, supported and strengthened the State. Hence the May laws cannot have been meant to control the freedom of the Protestant clergy; yet, as we had no alternative but to enact the same laws for both Establishments, Protestantism had to be placed on the same footing as the priests. I regret that in consequence of the sweeping measures that had to be taken apprehensions have been raised in many quarters. I am alluding here chiefly to civil marriage, which the attitude of the priesthood had made it indispensable to introduce. I confess that I at first was far from approving the measure. It is true, civil marriage is not opposed to the Christian doctrine. You are aware what Luther thought about it; you know, too, that we had civil marriage on the Rhine for many years, and this without any detriment to religion. Yet I did not like to shake veneration for an ancient usage, sanctioned by Christianity; I did not like to offend the feelings of honest and loyal people, who possibly might be excited and thrown into consternation by the innovation. But I failed to persuade my colleagues, and should have brought on a Ministerial crisis had I persisted. So I gave my consent. Though I foresaw that the measure would be less effective than others imagined, it is now law, and being such, is respected by the Protestant Church.

"As to the new arrangements for the government of the Protestant Church, the admission of the lay element to power in the Establishment is an important measure. Especially in Calvinistic districts, people after this concession take a greater interest in Church matters, and are ready to support it in a way very different from what used to be the case. To the Protestant Church Presbyterian government is essential; the Catholic Church is a structure ready and finished, in which the laity are like accessories in a landscape.

"Of course if, as you say, you are going to adopt similar arrangements in Wurtemburg, you must be prepared for hostile elements profiting by the facilities given for combat. Recent events in the Berlin synod have been anything but satisfactory. Still I am convinced that the adversaries of the Apostles' Creed have not a leg to stand upon in Berlin. In my opinion, we are conferring too much honour upon the representatives of these extreme opinions in making martyrs of them. (A Berlin clergyman who spoke against the Apostles' Creed in a recent sitting of the Synod has been severely reprimanded by the Brandenburg Consistory.) The men holding these views in reality possess very little influence, and besides, some allowance should be made for their tartness on the score of the well-known 'Berlin acidity.' No doubt we have plenty of scholars among us absolutely opposed to religion, and on principle the enemies of all creeds; but they exercise very little influence upon the views of the people, and moreover, are superstitious in many respects. However, we shall never do away with difference of opinion within the pale of the Church. All we have to guard against is indulgence in our hereditary failing—the *furor Teutonicus*, which seem to render it obligatory upon Germans to carry every controversy to extremes. (Here the reverend gentlemen, with courteous depreciation of their calling, begged to observe that the *rabies theologorum* was, perhaps, as mischievous as the *furor Teutonicus*.)

"My experience of professors when they take to politics (the Prince sarcastically continued) is not the most agreeable. Even in Parliament they continually suppose they are addressing their scholars, and cannot bear being contradicted. When they are opposed they get excited, and cannot realise the enormity of any one venturing to differ from them. I may, perhaps, be permitted to observe that clergymen, being likewise in the habit of preaching to those who must not contradict them, sometimes find it difficult to adopt Parliamentary usages in Synod. It is true the Synod must not allow Christ to be disowned; yet I am of opinion that dogma requires to be developed, that care should be taken to prevent its freezing into a dead letter. Various beliefs and constructions have always existed and will continue to exist in the Church, and no one has a right to appropriate to himself the exclusive right of being in the right. Were this not so, we should be worse off than the Catholic Church, we should have a number of infallible Popes, whereas the Catholics have but one. As our Saviour says, we ought to be patient and tolerant and carefully tend the tree, instead of cutting it down and throwing it into the fire."

The Prince then cited the conduct of a pastor whom he happened to know who, by his bigotry, had succeeded in dispersing his congregation. He next gave a detailed and most amusing account of the alleged miracle at Marpingen, in the Rhine Province, where some little children were induced to report upon interviews with the Virgin, until the Courts took the matter up. He laughed at the Papacy having declared the Lourdes apparition a miracle, notwithstanding the true and deplorably intelligible facts of the case had been ascertained. "But," he added, "in cases such as these the police are powerless; it is elementary instruction we must rely upon to prevent the repetition of such scenes in the future." Here the conversation was abruptly broken off, and the clergymen took their leave.

BREACH OF CONTRACT.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO QUEEN VICTORIA:—
"Will you, to the utmost of your power, maintain the laws of God, the true profession of the Gospel, and the PROTESTANT REFORMED RELIGION established by law?"
THE QUEEN:—"All this I promise to do."
[From the Coronation Oath.]

We observe with some surprise, but without apprehension, that active efforts are being made, not only to bring the Conservative working-man to the front on general politics, but also to band together Ritualistic working-men. Actually, a society, considerable in numbers, has been formed in London for the defence of High-Churchism in its latest and most extravagant manifestations. On Saturday last, this society held its anniversary in the great hall of the Cannon-street Hotel. The meeting was attended by representative working-men from all parts of the kingdom, and was conducted with great propriety, and with unusual display of hearty enthusiasm. The object of the assembly was declared to be "freedom of worship and the preservation of the rights and liberties of the Church of England, on the basis of the Book of Common Prayer, and the usages of the primitive Church." It excites a smile to see this peculiar combination of the Book of Common Prayer and the ancient usages of the Christian Church. We are not so much surprised to see the defence of Ritualism based on the Book of Common Prayer, for there is much in that book to justify, or at least to explain, the modern tendency to priestism and sacramental notions. But it really is too bold, if not surpassingly impudent, to connect the monstrosities of modern ecclesiasticism with the simple and unpretending practices of the Apostolic Church; and it is to warn the working men of Norfolk against the delusions attempted to be practised upon them that we recur to this exciting topic, and beg our readers to give heed to a few simple but all-important matters of fact. We have prefixed to this article an extract from the Coronation Oath. We have done so because it is asserted in many quarters that the term "Protestant" is an unauthorised appellation when given to the Established Church. It has no right, High Churchmen say, to be called Protestant. They prefer the term Catholic. Now here we see in that most solemn procedure of the oath at the coronation that the supreme authorities both in Church and State recognise the right of the Church of England to the title of Protestant. It is, in fact, the basis of the contract between the two branches—the secular and the spiritual—that the former should maintain what the latter defines by the term "Protestant Reformed" Church of England. The Queen is bound by her oath, the Primate is bound, and the Church through him, as its spiritual head, is no less bound, by this public definition of what the Church is and is expected to be in the face of the whole nation. We say, therefore, to the working men of Norfolk, and to all others whom it may concern, that the subsisting contract of Church and State recognises the obligation on the part of the Church and on the part of the Queen, to maintain not a Romanising system—not a high, sacramental,

and priestly faith—but a religion "Reformed," and a religion truly and thoroughly "Protestant." Working-men have the faculty of common-sense in a higher degree and in fuller vigour, as we believe, than the more educated and sophisticated classes. They can see and can seize a good point. We give them one, on the vital all-absorbing question of the day. Here is a contract, the Church engaging on certain terms to supply the nation with a specified article. Is that contract honestly carried out? Speaking of hundreds of our churches and hundreds of our public schools, endowed and elementary, is that solemn contract embodied in the royal oath, and in the words of the Church's Primate, honestly carried out? We say it is not. The stuff administered in a vast many places is deleterious—it is not "Protestant," it is not "Reformed." It is Jesuitical, it is Roman. Let working-men, appealed to on both sides, apply their strong faculties and their simple methods to the clearing up of this controversy. Let them insist that the contract made three hundred years ago be revised; and, at least, let them demand this, that if the Queen by her oath is bound to defend the Protestant faith, the Church by requiring that oath of Her Majesty, is doubly bound itself, in all honesty and everywhere, to maintain the self-same faith.

We have no time now to compare the high and overbearing pretensions of modern priests either with the Prayer-book or apostolic records. It may be seen, when this inquiry is thoroughly gone into, that there is a fearful variance between what the apostles taught and what their boasted successors practise. It is enough for the present to drive home this one point:—"You clergymen of the Established Church are bound to give us the Protestant reformed faith, or you prove yourselves dishonest to the nation, whose revenues you absorb, and disloyal to the true Church whose purity you corrupt."—*Norfolk News.*

In this month's *Liberator* the subscription list contains the names of thirty-six resident members of the University of Cambridge, and amongst these are five Fellows of colleges.

The French Reformed Church.—The Juridical Commission appointed by M. Martel in April last for the purpose of considering the threatened disruption of the Reformed Church and the feasibility of subdividing the Consistory of Paris so as to secure the representation of the Liberal section, has virtually concluded its labours. Not having commenced its task when May 16 arrived, there was a doubt whether it would meet at all, and whether the new Minister of Worship, M. Brunet, would, by at once convoking the Synod, shelve the commission. This apprehension was soon dispelled, for M. Brunet requested M. Dufaure, its President, to proceed with the inquiry. The Liberals, however, assert that the influence of May 16 set aside whatever slight hopes had been entertained of a favourable result, and that though the commission was exclusively composed of jurists, some of them, being staunch Catholics, leant to the pretensions of the Synod as the legitimate governing body of the Reformed Church. M. Dufaure, it is said, cautioned his colleagues against applying to Protestants Catholic ideas of authority, and ultimately the feeling of the commission was in favour of mutual concessions by the Orthodox and the Liberals. A report has accordingly been drawn up by M. Laferrière, which, though not yet formally adopted, expresses the views of the commission. It indicates as the proper solution that the Orthodox should be less rigid in enforcing compliance with their creed; that the Liberals should meet them half-way; that the Nismes project of last summer should be revived, and that the Synod should be convened to settle a compromise. As to the Paris Consistory, the report recognises the injustice of excluding the Liberals from the pastorate, and recommends the consistory in filling up vacancies to consider the wishes of a probable moiety of the Protestants.

Indian Bishops and Missionaries.—The Bishop of Durham having objected strongly, in a letter to the Metropolitan of India, to the resolutions passed at Calcutta as to the relations of the bishops abroad to missionary societies, the Bishop of Calcutta has written his lordship a long letter, in which he says that when a difficulty arises between a bishop and an agent of the Church Missionary Society there is no tribunal to which to appeal for a settlement. His lordship, referring to the importance of eliciting the opinion of the laity, says:—"I have had during the last week (July 14) a Conference at which these subjects have been discussed. We assembled in the transept of the cathedral the clergy of Calcutta in the neighbourhood, native as well as European, chaplains and missionaries of both societies, and the laymen who are communicant members of the Church councils, laity in proportion of two to one to the clergy, and such Conferences I hope to hold at other centres of the diocese." At this meeting it was resolved that the bishop was in the last resort responsible for all teaching in the diocese, that the appointment of laymen should be made with a due regard to the bisnop's ultimate right of veto (especially as catechists practically perform the duties of deacons), and that some kind of synodical action was requisite to guard against arbitrary acts by the bishop." In conclusion, his lordship says that he is not unmindful of the danger of speaking and acting as a novice:—"I entreat you, as a father, to come forth to our help, not to fan the flames of strife and uncharitableness, but as a true clergyman and peacemaker. Let me say solemnly that your call to 'firm resistance' is a call to a state of things which I dare not write about. All friends of the Church Missionary Society know that nothing keeps them in harmony with the Church's organisation except a cord of mutual confidence and good understanding, a cord which even in the episcopate of such a man as Bishop Wilson was subjected to a serious strain, but which in these more anxious days is hardly enough to trust to. I am confident that a fresh and generous meeting of each other might end in a satisfactory basis for future operations. Let us believe that we want to be right and to be put right, and then help to put each other right as God has taught us. So deal with our resolutions, and we shall thankfully receive your help, and God will help us to the right; but we can never be right nor ever be at peace if we are to follow you in a firm resistance to each other's approaches." In reply to the Bishop of Calcutta, the Bishop of Durham, in a letter dated Auckland Castle, last Thursday, rejoins at length. Accepting Bishop Johnson's denial that the resolutions of the bishops in India were intended to interfere with missionary societies or to claim for the bishops a dangerous increase of power, his lordship says:—"The question naturally arises, Where was their need? what was their object?" The Church Missionary Society acknowledges the legitimate authority of the Colonial Episcopate. Bishops Cotton and Milman worked harmoniously with the society, and now the Indian bishops, "three of whom have not been consecrated two full years," suddenly discover that the machinery formerly so efficient is old and worn out. The bishop points out that the Indian bishops should have consulted their clergy and laity in the first instance instead, *more Hibernico*, of deciding first and consulting afterwards. After remarks on how far the responsibility of bishops for the acts of others really extends, his lordship says:—"I have to acknowledge the courteous terms in which you deprecate my 'fanning the flames of strife and uncharitableness.' The indictment is a serious one. But before it can be justified I may reasonably ask that you give full and satisfactory replies to two questions, the answers to which may serve to indicate the parties on whom the blame may justly fall of offending against peace and charity. First, who originated the strife? Was it the patient and devoted men who have been labouring so long and so well with the full appreciation and cordial encouragement of several succeeding bishops, or was it the present youthful occupant of the See of Colombo who sought to crush them by an iron hand? Next, who have fanned the flames of contention? Is it the many warm friends of the Church Missionary Society in this country, who are resolved by God's help not to allow twelve faithful missionaries to be silenced, and a prosperous field of mission work to be turned again into a wilderness; or is it the Indian bishops, who, without an expression of sympathy for the downtrod missionary, without one word of defence of the just rights and liberties of the inferior clergy, have sought only to extend their own authority, and by their unhappy resolutions have given their sanction to all the arbitrary proceedings of one of their body? I own that when I first read these resolutions it was with sorrow and dismay. Not only did it seem to me that an excellent opportunity had been lost for restoring peace to the distracted diocese of Colombo, but that a new and most serious obstacle had been interposed, which rendered any efforts to re-establish harmony almost hopeless. Let the responsibility of 'fanning the flame of uncharitableness' rest on the right shoulders.'"—*Times.*

Religious and Denominational News.

THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.

(*From our own Correspondent.*)

Bristol, Saturday.

Last night (Friday) the 134th Wesleyan Conference came to a close about nine o'clock. This event forms an epoch in the history of Methodism. The late Conference was the last in which only ministers will sit. The next, which will commence at Bradford on July 23, 1878, will in many of its sittings be composed of laymen as well as ministers. The mixed Conference will consist of the president, 240 other ministers, and 240 laymen. The 240 ministers will contain all members of the Legal Hundred (excepting the president, who sits in his own right) who have at the May district meeting declared their intention to attend, any assistant-secretary or chairman of a district not in the hundred, and six ministers in full connexion stationed in foreign districts who may be in England at the time of the sitting of the Conference. If any department is not fully represented in the Legal Hundred, additional provision shall be made for its representation. An eighth of the lay representatives are to be elected annually by the Conference, when composed of ministers and laymen. Twelve of these will be treasurers of various connexional funds who will be elected on *ex officio* grounds. That will leave eighteen who will rotate, six to go out at the end of the first year, six more at the end of the second year, and the six others at the end of the third year. This was expressed as follows in a resolution moved by Dr. Punshon:—"One-eighth of the lay representatives shall be elected annually by the Conference, when composed of ministers and laymen. This number shall include the treasurers of foreign missions, the school funds, chapel fund, metropolitan chapel building fund, children's fund, home mission, auxiliary, theological institution, and extension of Methodism funds for the time being; one-third of the remaining number elected at this Conference shall retire at the end of the first year, one-third at the end of the second year, and one-third at the end of the third year, and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election by the Conference." It was decided that the election of the remaining lay representatives of the Conference should be by the separate vote of the laymen, taken by ballot after nomination in the May meetings of the district committees; such nomination to be by the lay members only. If the circuit stewards of any circuit, or either of them, shall, at the March quarterly meeting, declare inability or unwillingness to attend the district committee, the quarterly meeting of that circuit shall be empowered to elect a representative, or representatives, by open vote, from amongst its members to supply the vacancy so created. In the conversation which took place on these subjects Dr. Jobson repeated what he had already affirmed, that the majority of the people, as also the majority of the ministers, did not *per se* desire the change as to lay representation, but submitted to it as that which had become by past proceedings inevitable. Mr. Hargreaves said it was sometimes affirmed of them that, with the exception of the Church of Rome, they were the only Church that had exclusive ministerial arrangements, whereas the fact was that there was no Protestant denomination in which the lay element and influence existed to the same extent. They could not appoint a local preacher or bring a man into the ministry, or elect a leader, without the consent of the laity. Dr. Rigg said he thought they should bear in mind that, if some of them had sought to prepare the way for modifications which they had foreseen must of necessity be made sooner or later, they had not done so out of a love for revolutionary changes. He would remind his brethren that the worst possible enemy of Conservative order was immobility, when the time had come to make some changes. The best possible friend of Conservative order was he who advocated timely changes in harmony with constitutional principles, but also in harmony with the natural development, progress, and expansion of the living body with which he was connected. He presumed that such a body as theirs, so wide, so large, so full of life, in the midst of such a living community teeming with influences from month to month and year to year, *must* have some changes—must adapt and develope itself in some way, or it would soon be left hopelessly behind. Mr. Olver believed that the two great principles on which they carried on their church government were (1) distinct ministerial responsibility, and (2) co-operation on the part of the Church at large. He thought their wisest course would be to lay down the principle that in the mixed Conference the pastoral element should be there distinctly and fully to represent the pastoral responsibility, and that those that came into the Conference to represent the pastorate should be elected by the pastorate alone; and that on the other hand there should be introduced into the mixed body the element of church co-operation. To avoid complications, he thought they could better afford to take the separate vote, pure and simple, by the laymen, and reserve to themselves the power of bringing into that mixed body the purely pastoral element. He was very sure they had nothing to fear in doing this. He was sure there was not a district nor a circuit in the country where the Methodist pastorate was not able to command a legitimate and powerful influence, and they would never find the laity of a district giving votes in respect of elections which were opposed to the whole of the influence which had been exerted through the year by the pastorate of their several circuits. Several other resolutions were passed, the substance of the most important of which was, that from those chosen by the district for the Ministerial Conference those should be selected who are to sit in the mixed Conference. The newly-elected members of the Legal Hundred are to become at once members of the mixed Conference. Every lay representative must have been for five consecutive years a member of society and an office-bearer in some circuit of the district he represents. The subjects which are to come under discussion in the ministerial and mixed Conferences were clearly defined.

A very important division was arrived at in connection with the temperance cause, by which Bands of Hope properly organised, and under circuit control, are to be established, as also temperance societies. In these there are to be two classes: abstaining members, who sign the pledge, "I hereby agree to abstain from all intoxicating liquors as beverages, and will endeavour to promote the objects of this society"; and non-abstaining members, who take the pledge, "I hereby agree to exert myself for the suppression of intemperance, and will endeavour to promote the objects of this society."

On Tuesday forenoon the ministers' sons from New Kingswood School, at Bath, were permitted to visit the Conference, when they were addressed by some of the preachers present. The governor and head-master addressed the Conference; the former alluding with some pleasantry to the change which had taken place in the management of the school since the days of Wesley, which forbade all

play. For a number of years the lads from this school have been remarkably successful in many public and University examinations.

Various and miscellaneous matters came under notice. Mr. Greaves stated that a fund had been invested by a lady in behalf of the Zetland Isles. A memorial was presented from the Irish Conference complaining of the prescriptive right of the President of the English Conference to preside over the Irish Conference, and suggesting an alteration. Instead of sending a representative to the Methodist Episcopal Church South (United States), it was deemed sufficient to send a letter of fraternal greeting. It was decided that Dr. Smith should visit as deputation the Australasian Triennial Conference, to assemble at Sydney in May, 1878. It was stated that the number of church members was 382 555, being an increase on the year of 9,617, with 28,037 on trial. The final revision of stations took place by show of hands after eight o'clock on Wednesday evening.

A letter was received from the Primitive Methodist Conference which was held at Scarborough in June. It concluded with the expression of a desire to know if the Conference would receive a Primitive Methodist deputation at the Bradford Conference should such be appointed. The Conference decided to do so. This will be perhaps the first occasion of a deputation from another Methodist Church in England visiting the Conference of the parent body.

A long discussion took place on the question of selling the Centenary premises in Bishopsgate-street, should a fitting offer of purchase be made, and removing to more suitable premises. The subject was remitted to a committee.

A good deal of interest was excited by a recommendation of the Birmingham and Shrewsbury district to do away with the question put to candidates for the ministry concerning the use of tobacco. In 1795 the Conference resolved: "No preacher shall use tobacco for smoking, for chewing, or in snuff, unless it be prescribed by a physician. Our people are requested not to introduce pipes and tobacco into their houses for preachers, except in extreme cases." A vote was taken which decided that the question should not be put. But this was challenged, and the unusual process of dividing the house was resorted to, the result of which was to rescind the previous vote and retain the question.

The publication department appears to be in a good state. The number of tracts printed amounted for the year to 3,373,441. It has been decided to publish a new tract weekly, to bring out a series on various aspects of the Sabbath question, and to issue a smaller series suited for day and Sabbath schools. The sale of denominational periodicals for the year reached nearly two millions. An enormous number of copies of the new hymn-book have been disposed of. In a few weeks the quarto edition of 10,000 copies was almost completely sold, and a much greater sale is expected of the cheap edition about to appear. The *London Quarterly Review* was also referred to. During the year thirty-seven new books were published, and thirty-four new works reprinted. The sales for the year have been: Periodicals, 1,818.000; tracts and covers, 3,332,900; open air hymns, 40,500; New Hymn-books, 830,000; New Supplement, 22,450; School Hymn-books, 240,500; catechisms and miscellaneous, 625,000.

It was stated that about 150*l.* was still due on the expenses incurred by the Owston Ferry tombstone case. It was resolved to defray it from the Home Mission and Contingent Fund. It was further stated that the petitions against the Burials Bill sent by the several May district committees to the House of Lords were duly presented, and an eye-witness said that an appeal coming from so many hundreds of ministers made a considerable impression. The Conference recorded its hearty approval of the course pursued by the Wesleyan Association for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts in disseminating information respecting the character and operations of those immoral Acts by means of public meetings through the medium of the *Methodist Protest*, and otherwise through the public press, and repeated its solemn testimony against those Acts, and its recommendation to the people to unite and persevere in more vigorous effort to procure their repeal.

In his closing address the president, Dr. Pope, urged the ministers on returning to their homes to spend one whole day in supplicating God for a blessing on themselves and the churches confided to their care. The secretary, Dr. Williams, offered up the closing prayer.

THE WELSH CONGREGATIONAL UNION.

The Welsh Congregational Union was held at Portmadoc last week. The meetings commenced on Tuesday evening, when the Revs. T. Rees, Maenygroes, and David Roberts, Wrexham, preached the union sermons to a very large congregation.

At seven o'clock on Wednesday morning a general conference was held under the presidency of the Rev. G. Evans, Llandegla, when a paper was read by the Rev. J. W. Jones, Ystalyfera, on "Best mode of conducting members' meetings." This was followed by an interesting discussion. Another conference was held at ten o'clock, when an excellent address was delivered by the Rev. William Evans, Aberaeron, president of the Union, and a capital paper was read by the Rev. W. J. Morris, Pontypridd, on the ministry in its relation to the ungodliness of the age. A resolution proposed by Professor Jones, Carmarthen, and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Foulkes, St. David's, was passed, requesting the ministers and churches to set their faces boldly against prevailing sins. The following took part in the practical discussion that followed, namely:—The Revs. Mr. Evans, Hebron; T. Davies, Llanelly; Dr. John Thomas, Liverpool; and Dr. Rees, Swansea.

The third conference took place at two p.m., when a paper was read by Mr. Williams, of Merthyr, on the desirability of keeping accurate minutes of proceedings and statistics of the churches. This was followed by a resolution moved and seconded in eloquent speeches by Gohebydd and several gentlemen from Glamorganshire.

It was decided that the next meeting should be held at Llandeilo.

The next business was the introduction of a deputation from the General Assembly of the Calvinistic Methodists to this Conference. Most able and brotherly addresses were delivered by Dr. Edwards, Bala; the Rev. Joseph Thomas, Carno; and Mr. Thomas Lewis, Bangor (the deputation), and they were received with the greatest enthusiasm. The speeches by which they were received by the president and the secretary were enthusiastic, and the scene was highly affecting.

Dr. John Thomas, of Liverpool, proposed a resolution thanking the Calvinistic ministers for their affectionate greetings, and for sending such an honoured deputation.

This was seconded by Dr. Rees, of Swansea, and supported by Mr. Parry, Bethesda.

At seven o'clock in the evening a public meeting was held at the large Tabernacle Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, under the presidency of Mr. Henry Richard, M.P.

Mr. Henry Richard: I have felt some difficulty as to the subject on which I should address a few words to you this evening. The Committee of the Welsh Congregational Union have assigned a special topic to each of the gentlemen who are to follow me. But they have acted towards me as cruelly as the Egyptian task-masters, and expect me to make bricks without straw. (Laughter.) Happily, however, in the meeting of this afternoon, I found a text, and here it is:—"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." (Cheers.) At the meeting referred to we had the pleasure of seeing the powerful and influential body of the Calvinistic Methodists represented by a deputation appointed by their General Assembly, to bring words of kindly and brotherly greeting to the Congregational Union of Wales. The deputation consisted of the Rev. Dr. Edwards, of Bala, a gentleman held in the highest estimation by all classes of his own countrymen as a professor, as a preacher, and as a philosophical and theological writer; the Rev. Joseph Thomas, of Cairo, one of the most distinguished and eloquent preachers of his denomination; and Mr. T. Lewis, of Bangor, a lay gentleman, who by his high character and varied attainments was worthy to be associated with the others. I need not say that they met with a most cordial and generous reception. (Cheers.) It was indeed a very gratifying sight to witness these two large and important bodies join hand and heart as they did on that occasion. It was especially so to me who have near relations with both. I was brought up among the Calvinistic Methodists, but received my education in an Independent College. I remember the time when on visiting Wales my position was one of considerable perplexity as between these two bodies. At that time a good deal of sectarian jealousy existed, and I was looked upon with some suspicion by the Methodists as having forsaken their ranks, and by the Independents, as still retaining some of the prejudices and proclivities of my Methodist origin. (Laughter.) But I believe by this time that both denominations are kindly willing to own me. (Loud cheers.) I only hope they may not be disposed to adopt the verdict pronounced by Solomon on the living child, and to say, "Divide him into two, and give half to the one and half to the other." (Laughter.) But there is no need of that, as the two bodies are now united, not indeed outwardly and formally, but in spirit, in feeling, in heart. They are conscious that they have one faith, one Lord, one baptism, one God and Father of all. (Loud cheers.) Indeed, I regard the scene we have witnessed this afternoon as significant of a great fact, which to my mind is one of the most hopeful signs of the times—namely, the great and growing tendency which exists to practical unity among the free churches of this land. The reason is that they have come nearer to each other; and just in proportion as they do that, do they recognise the lineaments of their Father's image. According to an estimate recently made by an able statistician, I thank it would be no exaggeration to say, that there are probably 25,000 places of worship of all kinds belonging to the Evangelical Nonconformists in the United Kingdom, including the Independents, the Baptists, the various bodies of Methodists, and the various bodies of Presbyterians; and I venture to say that if a member of any one of these joined in the religious services of any other of them, he would find substantially the same doctrine preached, and substantially the same forms of worship observed, and would find himself not a stranger or a foreigner, but belonging to the same household of faith. (Cheers.) And this concord is brought about by no Act of Uniformity, by no creed or ritual prescribed and enforced by law. While this approximation has been going on among so many branches of the political Church, there is only one religious body, that has become and is becoming more and more alienated from all other bodies, and that is the Established Church of this country; and this in my opinion is one of the saddest and most sinister results of the union of the Church and State, that it raises an artificial barrier to separate and keep apart men who have a common faith and a congenial spirit, and who would otherwise

Like kindred drops have mingled into one.

(Cheers.) Among the members of the Church of England there are tens of thousands of the excellent of the earth, men and women to whom we should all be drawn by the strong attractions of spiritual sympathy and affection. But we are repelled and kept aloof by the circle of sectarian exclusiveness which an Established Church draws around those within its pale. I believe there are some among them who feel this as much as we do, for in such cases the law comes in between those who are willing to preach and pray together, and peremptorily says: "You shall not do it." It is easy to imagine a case, which I have no doubt has in some instances happened, of a clergyman and a Nonconformist minister going up from some provincial town to London or other large city to a meeting of the Evangelical Alliance. They meet on the same platform, and the former professes, and, no doubt, with perfect sincerity, strong Christian affection for his Nonconformist brethren. But when they return to their home, then straightway his *status* as a minister of the Established Church obliges him to draw himself up, and look askance at his Dissenting brother. He cannot ask him to occupy his pulpit, or join in any religious service at his chapel, and all their Christian fellowships is dissolved. There is a broad rift, which runs through the whole structure of English society from base to summit, and divides Churchmen and Dissenters as completely as the castes in India divide the different classes of the population there. (Cheers.) This is in part, as I have said, the operation of law. But still worse is the effect produced on the spirit of ministers and members of the Establishment by the sense of privilege and prerogative which their position as belonging to the State-Church begets within them, and by reaction, let us be candid in admitting, on our spirits, who are without. Take, for instance, the conduct of many of the Evangelical clergy on so simple a matter as the burials question. It does not seem to hurt their consciences to live in close ecclesiastical communion, as they must if they are members of the same Church, with men who teach the Real Presence, and the doctrine of the Mass, the worship of the Virgin and of the saints, prayers for the dead, the duty of auricular confession and the disgusting practice of the confessional, who set up crucifixes, altars, banners, in their churches, who burn incense and wear Romish vestments, who denounce the Reformation as a "delusion" and "an abomination," and the reformers as "miscreants," who openly proclaim that their object is the extirpation of Protestant opinion and practices not in the Church but throughout England—it does not hurt their consciences, I say, to remain in the same communion with such men and so be partakers of their deeds; but it is intolerable to them to allow an evangelical Protestant Dissenter, whose hand they may have clasped on the platform of the Evangelical Alliance, to come into the churchyard, and say a few words of Christian comfort or exhortation over the body of one of the members of his own flock. (Loud cheers.) But what is the influence of the Establishment on the Church within its own borders? I remember the time when one of the strongest arguments urged in favour of the union of Church and State was this, that it secured unity of faith and uniformity of practice and discipline; while the Dissenters were constantly reproached and ridiculed on account of their divisions and diversities. Nonconformity was like Joseph's coat of many colours; it was like a number of men singing different tunes without concert or harmony. But the argument and reproach have now almost disappeared from the controversy, because facts are so flagrantly at variance with the assumption on which they rested that no one has the face to bring them forward. The substantial union is without the Church, and the diversities and divisions are within. (Cheers.) Indeed, the state of things in the Establishment seems to me in this respect deplorable. For what do we find? We find all her clergy, at the most solemn moment of their existence, when they are entering into holy orders, under what they profess to be something very like Divine inspiration, subscribing the same articles; giving their full assent and consent to all and everything contained in the same Book of Common Prayer; accepting and submitting to the same canons; and yet in their public teaching displaying such divergencies and contradictions that it is no exaggeration to say, as it was stated a year or two ago by the *Times* newspaper, that it is now established that a clergyman of the Church of England might teach any doctrine which only extreme subtlety can distinguish from Roman Catholicism on the one side, Calvinism on another side, and Deism on a third side. I do not say all this with pleasure, far less with exultation. To my mind it is infinitely sad. I hope I am a Christian first, and a Nonconformist afterwards. (Cheers.) Any tendency I might feel to triumph as a Nonconformist is checked by the feeling of sorrow I feel at the damage done to our common

Christianity by such a state of things. And is it not marvellous that any of our Church friends can feel any complacency in the kind of union which is maintained by such means, and at the cost of such terrible sacrifices? I remember our honoured departed friend, Mr. Binney, in one of his pamphlets, has this passage: "The reader may sometimes have observed in a lump of ice feathers, bits of straw, and fragments of crockery, all bound together and kept together by a power distinct from that of natural affinity or attraction between the substances themselves. This is no bad emblem of the kind of union that exists in the Church, and the kind of freedom it enjoys from parties and heresies." If instead of the materials specified by Mr. Binney, we were to suppose those mentioned by the Apostle Paul, "gold, silver, precious stones," and "wood, hay, stubble," held in artificial union, we should have a still more accurate representation of the state of things in the Church. But is it possible that any sincere Christian man can wish for the perpetuation of such a state of things? Ought we not rather to pray that the Sun of Righteousness should arise and dissolve this huge iceberg, which keeps in unnatural conjunction such heterogeneous and incoherent materials, so that the different elements might join that for which they have a moral and spiritual affinity. Let those who sympathise with Rome go to their own place, which would be better in all respects than that they should continue nominally connected with a Protestant Church; and let those whose spiritual sympathies tend towards Evangelical Nonconformity be at liberty to follow the impulses of their own heart uncontrolled by legal or conventional fetters and there would be then a unity of the spirit, infinitely nobler than any outward uniformity maintained by Acts of Parliament, or by a selfish desire of sectarian ascendancy. (Loud cheers.)

On Thursday, August 9, Mr. Henry Richard laid the foundation-stone of a new Independent chapel at Portmadoc, intended to be a memorial chapel for the late Rev. William Ambrose, who for thirty-seven years was the minister of the Congregational church in the town. There was an immense concourse of people assembled on the spot which is to be the site of the new chapel.

Mr. Richard said the progress of the Independent cause in Portmadoc is a history full of interest and full of encouragement. It is scarcely more than fifty years since the first attempt was made to establish a Congregational cause, and that principally through the exertions of a pious and zealous lady. It is precisely fifty years since the first chapel was opened here, which took place in June, 1827. It is forty years since the beloved and honoured William Ambrose was settled as pastor of the church. It may be said that he was God's gift to Portmadoc. When he first came, there were only sixteen communicants. But from the time of his advent there was a gradual and steady, and, during some years of his ministry, a rapid and remarkable growth of the church and congregation. In 1840 it was found necessary to enlarge the chapel; in 1842 there was another enlargement. Still the cry was, this place is too strait for me, and in 1858-9 a new chapel was built—the handsome and convenient building in which the meetings of the Union were held yesterday. And now we are laying the foundation of a stone of what is to be a still larger chapel, and which is to be not a substitute for, but an addition to, the one already existing. (Cheers.) The growth of the church here in numbers, in wealth, and in liberality, is also indicated by the cost of these various enterprises. The first chapel cost 300*l.*, and that was felt at the time, and no doubt was, in relation to the fewness and poverty of the members, a serious burden. The second chapel cost upwards of 2,000*l.* and that the foundation-stone of which we are laying to-day is to cost more than 4,000*l.*, of which a considerable proportion has been already subscribed. Thus the provision for the religious wants of the community has kept pace with the increase of the population, has grown with its growth, and strengthened with its strength. And this is only a sample of what is done by the Free Churches in all parts of the Principality. Our worthy friends who cling to the idea of an Establishment are wont to indulge in gloomy forebodings as to what would come of the cause of religion in the land if the national endowments were withdrawn. They especially prognosticate that it would decay and perish in those parts of the country where the population is poor, sparse, and scattered. In answer to these forebodings I am accustomed to point out to my own dear country of Wales, where, I venture to say, a more ample provision has been made by the voluntary liberality of the people than can be found in any part of the world. (Cheers.) In illustration of this, let me give you the following statement. In 1742 the number of Nonconformist chapels in Wales was 110; in 1775 it was 171; in 1816 it had grown to 993; in 1851 to 2,286; and in 1871 to 3,500. (Cheers.) The year 1851 was the year of the census of religious worship. The population of Wales, including Monmouthshire, was 1,188,914. The total number of places of worship was 4,006, which was distributed thus—Established Church, 1,180; Nonconformists, 2,806. Of the sittings the Church furnished 301,897, or 30 per cent.; the Nonconformists, 692,239, or 70 per cent. But we have been told that since that time things have changed, that the Church has made great strides, and gone far to overtake the Nonconformists. Well, in 1871 I had occasion to seek information in this parish, and I found the result to be this, as to the interval between 1851 and 1871. During that period, the number of new churches built in the four Welsh dioceses was, as nearly as I could find out, 110, and the number rebuilt and enlarged was 132. During the same period, the three following denominations alone, namely, the Calvinistic Methodists, the Independents, and the Baptists, had built 581 new chapels, against the Church's 110, and had rebuilt and enlarged 734, against the Church's 132. But we have a right to pass to the account of the voluntary principle not only the chapels, but the churches built, rebuilt, and enlarged, for this was also done, in the main, if not wholly, by the liberality of the people. (Cheers.) I mention these facts, not at all as a reproach to our Church friends, but rather as an encouragement. We recognise gladly and gratefully the revival of religious life within the Church, and we cordially wish them God-speed. But we wish to inspire them with faith and hope in the prospect of disestablishment and disendowment, which are no doubt coming. I have no doubt there are within the Church itself sources of liberality and zeal, which have as yet scarcely been touched, and which, when the time comes to call them forth, will flow as abundantly in Wales as they have done in Scotland since the time of the Disruption. (Cheers.) There is one aspect of our work to-day which invests it with a peculiarly interesting and touching character. This chapel is to be a memorial chapel, intended to commemorate the character and services of the excellent man who has done so much for the Independent cause and for the cause of religion, not only in this town, but in the neighbourhood and county. I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Ambrose, and I never met him without feeling that I was in the presence of a man, a gentleman, and a Christian. The last time I met him was at a service connected with the opening of the Welsh Independent Chapel in the Borough, London. Mr. Samuel Morley and myself had gone from the House of Commons to that meeting. Mr. Ambrose was there. He had been already touched with the malady which afterwards proved fatal. The few words he uttered under the sense of his infirmity and his approaching dissolution were inexpressibly touching, and brought tears into many eyes. The next I heard of him was that he had passed into "the land of the leal." I cannot better end these remarks than by quoting the words with which he closed the history of this church given by him in one of the Welsh periodicals: "Let the sons arise instead of the fathers, and the daughters instead of the mothers. Let the glory never depart from the church. Let her peace be kept as the river, and her righteousness as the waves of the sea." (Cheers)

Mr. Henry J. Perkins, of Hackney College, has accepted a unanimous invitation to the pastorate of Clifton Church, Asylum-road, Peckham.

Whitefield Tabernacle—A service was held on the 31st ult. in the Whitefield Tabernacle, for the purpose of publicly recognising the Rev. John Morgan, late of Blackburn, as the pastor of the church. The Rev. Dr. M'Auslane occupied the chair, and delivered a thoroughly practical speech. Mr. Hoyles, the senior deacon, stated the reasons which had induced the church so heartily and unanimously to invite their new pastor. Mr. Morgan stated the reasons why he had accepted this call, and sketched the work to which, by God's help, he intended to devote himself. Speeches full of fraternal sentiments were delivered by the Revs. John Byles, James Spong, J. Boyle, W. Tarbotton, W. Tyler, and James Ellis.

Mold Congregational Church.—The thirteenth anniversary of the opening of this church has just been commemorated by a series of well-attended services. On Sunday, Aug. 5, sermons were preached by the Rev. E. Davies, F.G.S., of Southport; and on Monday afternoon by the Rev. E. Herber Evans, of Carnarvon, the introductory services being taken by the Rev. J. D. Thomas, of Buckley. A large tea-party was held in the afternoon in the Assembly Room, Market Hall, followed by a public meeting in the Church at night. Mr. W. Armitage, J.P., of Manchester, treasurer of the Lancashire Congregational Union, presided. Addresses were given by the Revs. Roger Edwards (Mold), E. H. Evans (Carnarvon), P. W. Darnton, B.A. (Chester), T. Hartley (Marple), J. Johns, B.A. (Northwich), T. Roberts (Mold), and D. R. Hooke (the pastor). During the evening contributions were announced to the proposed school and manse in connection with the church; the chairman giving 25*l.*, and "A Friend" contributing 50*l.*

Baptist Church, Lansdowne-road, Bournemouth.—The first anniversary of the opening of this church was held on Sunday last, when sermons were preached, morning and evening, by the Rev. F. Tucker, B.A., of London. On Thursday evening the anniversary services were continued, and a public tea meeting was held at the British Schools. The Rev. H. C. Leonard presided. In the course of the evening Mr. Kitcher, the senior deacon, presented a watch, on behalf of the church, to the pastor. The watch was a very handsome gold one. On the outside of the case were the initials "G.P.G., and inside was the following inscription:—"Presented to the Rev. G. P. Gould, M.A., by the members of the Baptist Church and congregations at Bournemouth and Boscombe, as a token of their esteem and affection. 3rd September, 1877." Mr. Gould suitably replied, and several other ministers addressed the meeting. Upwards of 100*l.* was raised towards the reduction of the debt.

Special Working Men's Service at St. Paul's.—On Thursday evening the London Gregorian Choral Association repeated, "by request of a large number of working men," and by permission of the Dean and Chapter, the festival service given by them in the Cathedral last May. Working men were specially invited to be present, in their working clothes if they pleased, and the words, "No collection, seats free," were prominent on the bills. An hour before the time fixed for the commencement of the service crowds of people began to fill the nave of the cathedral, and though the class specially invited were not distinguishably present, very large numbers of the middle classes attended, and at half-past seven the nave and aisles were crowded in every part; all, with the exception of a few hundreds in the front, being content to stand. The sight from the gallery at the end of the nave as the service commenced, and the white procession wound its slow way through the black mass of people who crowded aisles and nave, was most impressive and striking. The great cathedral for once had a congregation and a choir worthy of its lofty grandeur, the dark domes of its lofty roof ringing with the music of a thousand voices. The service throughout was magnificently sung, alike to the credit of organist, precentor, and choir. The rendering of the Psalms was especially good, and those who heard the second processional hymn will not easily forget the impressiveness with which it was sung. The anthem, "Fear not, O land," taken from the cantata, "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion," by the organist of the evening, Mr. C. Warwick Jordan, Mus. Bac., was the climax to the service, the opening passage being especially fine. The Rev. J. Helmore, of the Chapel Royal, Savoy, was an admirable precentor. The sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Oakley, M.A., vicar of St. Saviour's, Hoxton, the service not terminating till nearly ten o'clock. It was estimated that from 15,000 to 20,000 people were present.—*Daily News.*

Southampton.—The Rev. S. March, B.A., who has now completed his ministry as pastor of Albion Congregational Chapel, Southampton, and has accepted the pastorate of Angel-street Chapel, Worcester, preached his farewell sermons on the last Sunday in July in the presence of large and attentive congregations, which included several worshippers at other churches in the town and neighbourhood. On Tuesday evening, July 31, a valedictory service was held in the chapel, which was very numerously attended, both by members of the Albion congregation and other friends. Mr. A. Barling, as senior deacon of Albion Chapel, presided. Letters expressive of inability to attend, and sympathy with the objects of the meeting, were received from the Revs. C. Povah, C. Sales, R. Urquhart, and S. B. Stribling. The Rev. H. H. Carlisle forwarded a copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the church, Above Bar, on July 26, in the Watts Memorial Hall, placing on record their deep regret that Mr. March's ministry in Southampton was about to terminate. The Rev. S. March, in the course of his address, said that he was leaving Southampton on the ground of health, and on that ground alone. When he first came there the church numbered less than 200 members. Some 660 had since been added, and during that period there had been raised for all purposes 15,104*l.*—a good testimony, he thought, to the power of voluntaryism. (Applause) This money had been spent in the town, county, the country, and the world, and great material as well as spiritual good had resulted from it. When he came there he knew something of Congregationalism as a practical thing. His father left the Established Church to be a Congregational minister, and he had forty years' experience of it, and came to love it more and more. Now, at the end of these fourteen years, he (Mr. March) could say that he had every confidence in their system of church government. He believed that that church was thoroughly united to-day, and not only so, but that, owing to its harmony and unity to a very large extent, activity and ability for the service of Christ had been developed. The Chairman, on behalf of the deacons and congregation, expressed their deep regret at Mr. March's departure, and bore testimony to his faithfulness as a minister and his excellence as a private friend. In terms of deep emotion he requested Mr. March's acceptance of a pair of handsome vases and a beautiful clock, each encased in a glass shade, and an illuminated address; and also for Mrs. March a life-sized portrait of her husband, by Messrs. Adams and Stilliard. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Dr. Wright, as representing the Presbyterians, the Rev. E. S. Shelton (Wesleyan), the Rev. H. O. Mackey (Baptist), the Rev. E. J. Boon (Free Church), and the Rev. J. E. Flower (secretary of the Hants Congregational Union, of which Mr. March was one of the district secretaries), bearing testimony to Mr. March's faithful ministry and sympathising friendship, all coupled with expressions of thankfulness to God for the work He has accomplished there, and the most cordial wishes for his happiness and success in his new sphere of duty. Mr. March has also received from the Sunday-school teachers an album containing their portraits; and Mrs. March has been presented by the Dorcas Society, of which she has been president for nine years, with an ornamental papier-maché work-table.

The health of Dean Stanley, who is now in Scotland, has been in an alarming state, but last night it was stated that he had almost entirely recovered.

Correspondence.

PREACHING IN NONCONFORMIST PLACES OF WORSHIP.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

Sir,—I wish every Dissenting minister could have read and pondered over "A.C.'s" opportune and valuable letter in your last issue but one. Sunday after Sunday in most of the country, and in some of the town, chapels throughout England a handful of people sit listlessly whilst their minister goes through his appointed task; at one time discussing the nature of prevenient grace, at another the doctrine of original sin, at another the reality of our Lord's temptations, at another the right interpretation of an obscure passage, and so on, interspersing these theological questions with Gospel sermons, where his hearers are told in hackneyed phraseology the way of salvation—just as if it were a new discovery he had read of during the preceding week. Now this injurious style of preaching necessarily causes the Sunday sermon to be looked forward to as an infliction which must be endured for the sake of the good it will probably do to someone else. And thus Mrs. A., as she walks home, suppresses the thought that the sermon was dreary in the belief that it will do good to Mr. B.; and Mrs. B. feels precisely the same, being comforted by the reflection that it may enlighten Mr. A.; whilst Mr. A. and Mr. B., dozing through the discourse felt that it was intended for the poorer part of the congregation. As your correspondent remarks, "Why, instead of wearying their congregations with ingenious hair-splittings in abstract theological science, do our ministers not give their Sunday evenings to the teaching of elementary morality?" Great and burning questions in theology, morality, and politics are before this age, and yet the degenerate descendants of the Puritans trifle away the hours of the Sunday, and destroy the influence they might wield; giving us stones instead of bread, in the shape of sermons culled from commentaries, or a Sunday hash of pious phrases and devout platitudes. And then Christians wonder that intelligent young men and women find it irksome to sit through a Sunday's services, and are horrified when their grown-up sons and daughters go over to the Church, where they can hear good music, or go into the fields, where they can see what is beautiful and true.

Yours obediently,
W. F. B.

DR. ZIEMANN'S MISSION IN BOSNIA.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

Sir,—I have been requested by the Manchester Evangelisation Committee to ask if you will kindly insert in your paper the enclosed letter from Dr. Ziemann, our representative in Bosnia, for the distribution of the funds entrusted to our care for the relief of the famishing refugees.

Your readers are daily receiving harrowing accounts of the deplorable condition of the unhappy sufferers and of the appalling fact that in certain districts from 25 to 40 per cent. have succumbed to the hardships of their terrible fate. At the same time, it will be encouraging if I state that, by the generosity of the public, we have been able to send within the last four weeks, by bills on London and orders for payment, a sum amounting to nearly 2,000*l.* Dr. Ziemann is now actively engaged in purchasing food for distribution among the refugees in the most necessitous districts. Our funds at this moment are entirely exhausted, and still the cry is, "Help! help! bread! bread!" Can we refuse to respond? Can we turn a deaf ear to the plaintive and sorrowful appeals that reach us from these dark depths of human misery, woe, and want?

I could tell of many who in humble circumstances of life are making sacrifices that they may be able to aid us in the relief of the distressed. Let one example suffice. "Oh, that I had," writes a poor woman, "the means of sending more than the enclosed (one shilling and elevenpence in stamps); I have gone without meat for more than a week to save this. Pray God help you! He is able." We appeal to all classes of the community; we know no party in this grim struggle for life, the claims of humanity override all political considerations; and we are glad to be able to say that men of all shades of political opinion, Churchmen and Dissenters, ministers and laymen, have not only contributed liberally of their means, but the kindly expressions of sympathy by which the contributions are accompanied, lead us to hope that the deep interest in the condition of the Christians in the East that has been awakened, will lead to important results in their future well-being.

Might we remind your readers that in the good providence of God we have peace in all our borders, that we are surrounded by comfortable circumstances, have happy homes, none daring to make us afraid, and, even if we have to admit a languishing commerce and curtailed incomes, a moment's reflection cannot fail to show us how complete is the contrast between our condition and that of the sufferers upon whom have come—and with increasing intenseness—such overwhelming disasters. Surely, gratitude for the blessings of peace and the mercies enjoyed will find expression in immediate action—in practical sympathy—that the joy of feeding the hungry and clothing the naked may be shared with those who have done so nobly in the past, and who are still prepared to make further sacrifices in aid of a cause so worthy, and of claims so urgent. The Committee aim at sending 500*l.* per week; it will be satisfactory for the public to learn that the fund is not burdened by any salary or travelling expenses paid to our representative.

Contributions will be gratefully received by

Yours truly,
JAMES SINCLAIR,
Hon. Sec.

48, Blackfriars-street, Manchester, Aug. 7, 1877.

Agram, July 2, 1877.

My dear Sinclair,—On Thursday evening I arrived here eagerly expected, and very heartily welcomed. Miss Irby and Miss Johnstone had already left the scene of their operations, on account of the ill-health of the latter. They remained in this neighbourhood for my arrival to consult with me, arrange plans for the future, and then proceed to England. It is a sore trial to these ladies to leave their work, but it would be wilful wrong not to do so; rest in their case is imperative; both look very exhausted, and no wonder. I only trust their friends in England will not forget that they are returning to rest.

They have left a large quantity of Indian corn in Knin, and have made arrangements for regular distribution; but they were a little disappointed that I did not return with the distinct view to establish hospitals in the district of Knin. I know how much needed this is, not only for the wounded and sick, who, more or less, are left to groan, and suffer, and die, wherever they may chance to lie, but also as a centre of sanitary operations, soup-kitchens for the weak, &c., &c.; but it is a question with me how far I am justified in spending for this purpose the money entrusted to me to buy bread for the hungry. Will you bring this before the committee? Or will you find some one who would undertake to collect a few hundred pounds exclusively for a hospital? I know a doctor in Vienna who is willing to come and take charge of it, and I would expect great results from such an operation. As I have said, there is no provision for wounded or sick, and besides this, we would make it a kind of school of health. The refugees have lived for many sad and weary months in an atmosphere of sickness and death. It is frightful to consider the results. Miss Irby's schools do a great deal of good in this respect. I have just had an interview with Professor Tossic, who superintends the schools. There are eighteen in number, attended daily by 1,100 Bosnian children, who learn to read and write, are compelled to wash themselves daily, and are fed in the meantime. During the present holidays the eighteen teachers are together in Pacratz, where Professor Tossic gives them lectures on the art of teaching. Who can tell what light and life all this may create for the future of Bosnia? . . . . . I ask of English Christians, who feel the sublime meaning of their daily prayed, "Thy Kingdom come," to help with their pounds, shillings, and pence. I mention with much purpose "pence," because though it has been often stated that twopence will feed a person a day, many may forget that the same twopences do even still more than save a fellow-creature from starvation; the interest manifested in the gift bestowed will exercise an influence upon their heart and mind that will stimulate them to fit themselves for the day when they shall be free from the rule of the oppressor; that we have still to ask for help, and urgently to ask for it, hardly needs any explanation.

Sir Andrew Buchanan, our Ambassador in Vienna, told me of a report he had heard that the greater part of the refugees were now employed. Some English tourist had brought this good news. I expressed my doubts at once, and I am sorry to say my doubts were only too well founded! I spent several hours yesterday in the office of His Excellency V. Mollinary to compare my former lists of the refugees with the present official reports. I found at first that the number of refugees had increased considerably. For instance, in the district of Grashas and Udbina, near the frontier, where the late atrocities have been committed, as reported by the correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, 2,043 fresh refugees have come in during the last two months; also many had tried to go home, but had returned to Austrian territory, declaring their lives were not safe. Along the frontier alone there are still 54,319 refugees, in the interior 19,220 waiting for charity. This does not include the 17,000 in Servia, and some 20,000 to 30,000 in Dalmatia and Montenegro. The state of health is so far critical that the Austrian Government sent the chief of the medical department on a tour of inspection. He had just returned, and I interviewed him. He gave me his opinion about the affair in a few words, "If anyone wishes to do those miserable people the greatest charity, let him kill them at once!" You see I did not speak so strongly when I wrote, "The whole generation is perishing!" I wanted to find out which is at present the most needy place, but it seemed difficult to draw a comparison between starving and starving; however, this morning I was led to visit a district only two hours distant from here, where there are 337 families with 2,709 persons. A deputation had come a few days ago to his excellency the governor, describing their misery as unbearable. They have already been two years wandering about seeking shelter and bread. Their present district is the one I went to see, viz, Iwanish. They were soon gathered together, and crowded around me. As I looked at them my medical friend's advice rang sadly in my ears, "It were far better to kill them at once." How do they live? How can they live? During the last few weeks in England I had again the privilege to move amongst wealth, health, and comfort, this sorrowful scene came fresh upon me. The rags, the hunger-pinched faces, the wild, eager, anxious looks, thousands of eyes asking Bread! bread! It made me silent for sadness. A gentleman who lives here, and takes a fatherly interest in them, told me, that certainly one-fourth of them die, and added that many women had not come out that day because they have nothing to cover their nakedness; he had tried to the utmost to get them employment, but it is very difficult; he tried to establish some stone works, but, said he, "How can these men, who have not tasted fat or meat during the last two years, who have starved and suffered, how can they do hard work?" Alas! my friend's advice rung again in my ears, "Far better they were killed at once!" However, I have bought at once 2,000 sacks of Indian corn for 807 florins, and I pay fifty-two florins for freight in order to get it brought over at once this night. And it is a relief to me to think that the first hungry ones I have seen here will have bread to-morrow. On Monday morning I purpose to purchase about 500*l.* worth of corn for food, and send it at once to different districts I am about to visit.

Yours affectionately,
(Signed) H. P. Ziemann.

SKETCHES FROM THE GALLERY.

House of Commons, Tuesday.

Parliament died hard. In ordinary sessions the last few nights are devoted to winding up final business, the House meeting in time to adjourn before dinner. For the last three weeks, however, the House of Commons has met on every day of the week save Sunday, and has, moreover, sat late, thus appropriately concluding a session which, for sheer hard work and late sittings, finds no parallel since the epoch when Mr. Gladstone was at the head of affairs, and thought a session wasted unless it had such fruit as an Irish Church Act, Land Act, an Education Act, or at least a Ballot Act. The House of Commons has in the session which closes to-day worked hard enough to have passed any of these measures, though the melancholy fact is that its proudest and most important achievement is the passing of a Prisons Bill.

The House did not sit yesterday, it being found more convenient to take the penultimate sitting on Saturday. There were, of course, very few members present, for it was anticipated that the business would be merely formal, and nearly everybody had left town. The occasion was, however, just such a one as Sir William Harcourt might be expected to present himself upon; nor did he falsify expectation. The other night, coming in after a late dinner, he happened to find the House engaged upon business in which the subject of the Shah and the Huascar was mentioned. Everybody was agreed that, though there might be controversial matter in the subject, it was not yet ripe for discussion, and as involving questions of international law, was to be discussed only with great deliberation, and under a high sense of responsibility. To Sir William Harcourt, however, the opportunity appeared a highly favourable one for manifesting to his constituents and to the world generally, how constant was his attendance upon his Parliamentary duties, and how tireless was his watch over all subjects which are usually found too high or too deep for an ordinary member of Parliament. Accordingly, he delivered a speech which the Chancellor of the Exchequer justly characterised as "astounding," and on Saturday he attempted to repeat the offence. But though the Attorney-General was obliged to say something, the House declined to be dragged into the untimely debate, and the only profit Sir William Harcourt could derive from his interposition (beyond the pleasure of making himself disagreeable) is that the country will have the opportunity of

observing that whilst other ex-Ministers have hasted to be free, and have taken the earliest opportunity of throwing aside their Parliamentary armour, the ex-Solicitor-General is in his place to the last. I am sorry to dispel such a pleasing illusion, but fidelity to the truth compels me to say that whilst occupants of the front Opposition Bench generally may not be accused of too frequent attendance at the House, Sir William Harcourt spends less time there than any. His favourite hour for looking in is midnight, when he generally succeeds, if matters are going on pleasantly, in treading on somebody's coat-tail, and occupying considerable space in the reports of the debates in the morning papers.

This subject of the Huascar dropped, Mr. Fawcett drew from the Chancellor of the Exchequer a somewhat vague but decidedly emphatic declaration of neutrality in view of the war; and Mr. W. H. Smith, coming in breathless from his re-election, took the oaths and his seat as member for Westminster and First Lord of the Admiralty. Which done, "The House," that is to say, the seventeen members present, adjourned, having completed what was practically the last sitting of the session of 1877.

The attendance of members in the House of Commons was—the time of the year considered—remarkable. The Treasury Bench, in particular, was well filled with Ministers, evidently making it a point of honour to be present to see the last of the session. Even the order paper kept up the appearance of prolonged work, there being no less than fifteen questions on it; whilst there were two notices of motions, both by indomitable Scotch members. Mr. McLaren wanted certain returns, the end of which, as far as it might be gathered, was to show how much more Ireland gets out of the Imperial revenue than Scotland does; whilst Mr. Jenkins was concerned for the New Opera House on the Embankment, and desired to do nothing less than move the expediency of Her Majesty's Government considering the propriety of acquiring that site in order to establish a national school of music and the drama. Whether Mr. McLaren moved his motion, or whether he forebore, I do not know. But certainly even Mr. Jenkins recognised the impossibility of bringing on such a motion as he had formulated within twenty minutes of the prorogation.

Of the questions there was only one of any importance. That was put by Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, who hinted that Colonel Wellesley, having been recalled in order to report upon the atrocities alleged to have been committed by the Russian army, had not been able to satisfy the expectations of the Government, and that therefore there was an intention to burke his report. On this head Mr. Bourke made Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen quite easy by informing him that the report had actually been laid upon the table of the House, presently to be issued to members.

Questions were still being asked, when Black Rod, who, like time and tide, waits for no man, flung open the door, his name, or, rather, his title, being shouted in a stentorian voice by the attendant. Black Rod was to-day attired in gorgeous uniform, and his progress up the floor of the House, which has come to be regarded as a great feature in Parliamentary events, was watched with much interest. The gallant gentlemen has profited by his practice throughout the session, and, though he still conveys something of a funeral air to the ceremony, bowing with matchless profundity, he managed to get both in and out of the House without bringing about any of those catastrophes which have occasionally raised a laugh in the House. As he retired, Mr. Speaker rose, and passing through the rows of upstanding and reverential members, walked out in obedience to the summons which bade him go to the House of Lords to attend the ceremony of the prorogation. The departure of hon. members at the close of the session is very different from what it is when Parliament opens. On the latter occasion members are full of life and hope and spirits, and being also in considerably larger numbers, their progress towards the House of Lords much more resembles the rush of a lot of lads into a playground than the advance of the grave and responsible Commons. The House of Lords was a much more desolate place than the Commons. Five peers all arranged on the Ministerial benches represented the might and majesty of the Lords. The Opposition benches are given up entirely to the use of ladies, of whom something under a score were present. On a bench before the Throne sat five Lords Commissioners arrayed in scarlet robes, and wearing cooked hats. The Lords Commissioners were Lord Cairns, the Duke of Richmond, the Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Skelmersdale, and Lord Harrowby. As the Speaker of the House of Commons appeared, the Lords Commissioners gravely lifted off their hats three times in recognition of the presence of the Commons. Then the Commission was read at length with some bowing from the Lords Commissioners as their names were recited, the Act of Prorogation was read, the Commons departed, and Parliament was prorogued.

The following is the Queen's Speech, as read by the Lord Chancellor:—

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I am happy to be able to release you from your attendance in Parliament.

My relations with all Foreign Powers continue to be friendly.

The exertions which, since the commencement of disturbances in Eastern Europe, I have not ceased to make for the maintenance of the general peace, have, unfortunately, not been successful. On the outbreak of war between the Russian and the Ottoman Empires, I declared my intention of preserving an attitude of neutrality so long as the interests of this country remained unaffected. The extent and nature of those interests were further defined in a communication which I caused to be addressed to the Government of Russia, and which elicited a reply indicating friendly dispositions on the part of that State.

I shall not fail to use my best efforts, when a suitable opportunity occurs, for the restoration of peace, on terms compatible with the honour of the belligerents, and with the general safety and welfare of other nations.

If, in the course of the contest, the rights of my Empire should be assailed or endangered, I should confidently rely on your help to vindicate and maintain them.

The apprehensions of a serious famine in Southern India, which I communicated to you at the opening of the session, have, I grieve to say, been fully verified. The visitation which has fallen upon my subjects in Madras and Bombay and upon the people of Mysore has been of extreme severity, and its duration is likely to be prolonged. No exertion will be wanting on the part of my Indian Government to mitigate this terrible calamity.

The Proclamation of my Sovereignty in the Transvaal has been received throughout the Province with enthusiasm. It has also been accepted with marked satisfaction by the native chiefs and tribes; and the war, which threatened in its progress to compromise the safety of my subjects in South Africa, is happily brought to a close.

I trust that the measure which has been passed to enable the European communities of South Africa to unite upon such terms as may be agreed on, will be the means of preventing the recurrence of similar dangers, and will increase and consolidate the prosperity of this important part of my Dominions.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I thank you for the liberal supplies which you have voted for the public service.

I have issued a Royal Warrant to give effect to the provision which you have made for insuring adequate promotion to the officers of my army.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The measures which have been passed relating to the prisons of the United Kingdom will secure economy and efficiency in their management, and, at the same time, effect a considerable reduction in local burdens.

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, under the Act to which I have gladly given my assent, will obtain power to extend more generally the benefit of the higher education.

The Acts for reorganising the Superior Courts of Justice in Ireland, and for reforming and conferring an extensive equitable jurisdiction on the County Courts, will largely improve the administration of the law in that part of the United Kingdom.

I anticipate the best results from the Act which extends to the Sheriff Courts of Scotland jurisdiction in regard to heritable rights.

In bidding you farewell, I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest on your recent labours, and accompany you in the discharge of all your duties.

There was much grim humour in the sportsman who admonished his son on the occasion of that youth's first "outing" with a party after grouse—"Don't shoot that tall gentleman, for he is my banker; nor that spare, slight one, for he is my broker; but, if you must pepper somebody, let it be yonder fat and hearty parson—his curate preaches better sermons than he does, and has all the hardship, and scarcely any of the emoluments."

Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil.—Its Unequalled Efficacy in Consumption.—Mr. Allen G. Chattaway, District Medical Officer, Leominster, testifies, as follows, to the unparalleled efficacy of this celebrated Oil in the treatment of Consumption:—"Having for some years extensively used Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil, both in public and private practice, I have no hesitation in stating that its effects are very far superior to those of any other Cod Liver Oil. Nearly four years since, two cases of confirmed Consumption were placed under my care. In both, the lungs were a mass of tubercular deposit, and every possible sound to be heard in phthisis was present. The sole remedy employed was Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil; and now the patients are strong and fat; the diseased (abnormal) sounds nearly inaudible; and in the one case (male), hunting, fishing, and shooting are freely indulged in, the patient expressing himself quite capable of undergoing as much fatigue as any of his fellow sportsmen." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, 2s. 6d.; pints, 4s. 9d.; quarts, 9s.; with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists. Sole consignees, Ansar, Harford, and Co., 77, Strand, London.—[Advt.]

THE WAR.

NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE DANUBE.

Since July 31, the day of the battle of Plevna, no important fighting has taken place. On the 7th, however, Prince Mirski, who commands one of the divisions of the 8th Corps, marched from Tirnova in the direction of Lovca; but he was forced to remain in front of Selvi and entrench himself there, where he still is. On the 7th he pushed a reconnaissance of four battalions of infantry and some cavalry in the direction of Lovca; but the Turks were found in strong force, and the Russians had to fight their way out, and lost a couple of hundred men. This encounter was described in a telegram in the *Daily Telegraph*, alleged to come from Lovca, as "another great battle," in which the Russians "advanced to the assault in vast numbers," and "this supreme effort" was defeated "by a repulse of vast importance." Osman Pasha's own despatch shows that the engagement was little more than a skirmish.

The headquarters of the Grand Duke Nicholas are now at Studeni, a village about two miles west of Biela. Heavy and continuous rains had fallen, and were expected to do so for a fortnight. The line of the Jantra is protected by the army of the Czarevitch against the forces of Mehemet Ali, which are still at Shumla, threatening the corps of Zimmermann.

One of the correspondents at Bucharest says that everything tends to show that Mehemet Ali and Suleiman Pasha are making great efforts to effect a junction by the Slivno Pass, so as to dislodge the Russians once for all from Tirnova, and unite the three armies of Mehemet Ali, Suleiman and Osman Pashas, for the purpose of an attack on the bulk of the Russian forces—

If they succeed in carrying out this, we may expect shortly to hear of a great battle, which will decide this year's campaign. If the Russians bring Servia into their operations, their rear will be covered on that side, and supported by the Roumanians and Servians, they may gain the Sofia military road. The flank of the Turkish position would be thus turned, and the Russians might effect the purpose they had in view in forcing the Balkan Pass, and march by Adrianople on the Turkish capital.

Another statement from Bucharest is as follows:—

A large Russian army, under the Czarevitch, is facing Eyoub Pasha on the left and Mehemet Ali Pasha on the right. The former is threatening from the direction of Rasgrad, and the latter from Osman Bazar. Eyoub is believed to have forty eight battalions of infantry, sixty-two squadrons of cavalry, and fifteen batteries of artillery; while the army of Mehemet Ali Pasha contains about 60,000 men of all arms. It remains to be seen whether the Turkish armies above mentioned will make an attack, or remain until the Russians are ready to assail them. Suleiman Pasha (said to have 60,000 men) is believed to be endeavouring to force the passage of the Balkans, so as to form the centre of the Turkish line, Eyoub and Mehemet Ali forming the right, and Osman Pasha, at Plevna, the left. Such an extended line, should it be formed, would be a dangerous one, as it would be a crescent with the Russians inside, and free to concentrate upon any point. A strong Russian army is in front of Plevna, and the Roumanians are crossing to operate on the Turkish left, should they be actually called into active co-operation.

A report, probably more accurate, is to the effect that Osman and Mehemet Ali Pashas are constructing fortified camps at Plevna and Rasgrad, with the intention of remaining on the defensive at both points.

The special correspondent of the *Daily News*, who reported the battle of Plevna, maintains the opinion he expressed originally, that the result of that conflict has altered the whole plain of the campaign. He says:—"No more reckless, if victorious, raids now. No more advances, regardless of threatening concentrations on the flanks. The Russians have virtually abandoned the expectation of pressing the war successfully across the Balkans. For this year it will suffice them if during the three months still available for fighting they can sweep Bulgaria north of the Balkans clear of the Turkish armies. The Crescent must wave over the towers of Adrianople and the waters of the Golden Horn for yet another winter. The Russians will, indeed, continue to hold the Balkan passes which they have won. A man does not throw away the keys which open the door of the treasure-chamber. But the orders are to withdraw from all the trans-Balkan positions occupied, and to draw in around Kezanlik; this from no direct pressure of the Turkish forces beyond the Balkans, but because of the intrinsic risk always attending unsupported advances when they cease to have a definite object."

General Zimmermann, who was to have sent a portion of his two corps to Sistova, has been obliged to give counter-orders, for fear of the Turks crossing the Lower Danube and interrupting the Russian communications in Roumania. The steaming swamps amidst which this army is kept are causing a great amount of sickness, which will increase as the season advances.

According to advices from St. Petersburg, a corps of Grenadiers and three divisions of infantry, together 70,000 men, with 144 guns, are already on the march. The Guards, numbering 60,000, also with 144 guns, will start on the 16th, to arrive on the Danube at the latter end of September. Reinforcements will also be sent to Turkestan. It is reported that the Landwehr first-class (180,000) are short of officers, and will be employed to garrison towns.

Of the twenty-four *corps d'armée* of the Russian field army, fifteen at this moment are either in Bulgaria and on the Black Sea, or are being mobilised for the purpose of reinforcing the troops stationed in these localities. Four guard the Armenian frontier, two Poland, one is in the Caucasus, one in Central Asia, and one on the Baltic. In addition to the regulars, there are 100,000 Cossacks, and on the 9th of August the entire Roumanian army crossed the Danube at Simnitza, in the presence of Prince Karl, Princess Elizabeth, and M. Bratiano. Roumania asks the Dobrudscha as a reward of her military assistance. Two army corps from Odessa and the Crimea are on the march to Roumania to reach the Danube.

The *Globe* hears that the Russian Government experience considerable difficulty in mobilising the reserves. Out of 30,000 men summoned for service at St. Petersburg, only 25,000 have put in their appearance, the police being unable to find the remainder. Domiciliary visits are nightly paid by the police to the workmen's lodging-houses, and all persons are seized for the army who have not got passports or who are suspected of having evaded the conscription. At Cronstadt last week 100 workmen were taken out of the dockyard, in spite of the protests of the Admiralty officials, who declared that such a proceeding would interfere with the execution of the Government work. The men received their summons to join the army at six in the morning, and were marched off at twelve o'clock, thus preventing the greater number from bidding good-bye to their friends and families. These acts are causing great discontent among the lower orders.

The English Embassy at Constantinople has been officially informed by the Porte that the Russians have evacuated the Haien Burgaz Pass. The information is believed to have been telegraphed direct from Suleiman Pasha, who is said to guard the outlets of the Shipka and Hankivi Passes, still occupied by the Russians. But it is believed that all the passes will be abandoned, and all the Russians under General Gourko be withdrawn to Tirnova, and eventually further north, with a view to carry out the concentration of troops.

The naval correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Adrianople, Aug. 8, says:—

"The Russians have made a most precipitate retreat on the Balkans, but have not crossed. They were in small force at the best on this side, and came chiefly to give Turkey trouble by stirring up the Bulgarians. Even Philo-Russians severely condemn their conduct in first instigating the Bulgarians to revolt, and then leaving them to the mercy of the Turks, whose right to treat them as rebels is hard to question. Philo-Russians also express much surprise and disgust at the badness of the Russian tactics."

THE IMPERIAL MEETING.

The Emperor of Germany and the Emperor of Austria met at Ischl on Thursday, and are said to have parted on the most satisfactory terms.

The *Times* correspondent at Vienna states that no change whatever in the policy of Austria would arise from what passed at Ischl, and he is probably correct. It is stated that the question of the Russians extending the seat of war to Servia was not touched upon, and is likely to drop altogether. Prince Bismarck insists on keeping up the alliance of the three Northern Emperors for the time being.

The Russian Agency says:—"The Austrian Minister of Finance, M. Hoffmann, on being questioned by the correspondent of the *Golos* as to the attitude Austria would assume were Servia to declare war, said, 'Some weeks ago I should have emphatically replied, we should at once occupy Servia.' But now, seeing that the situation of affairs is changed in the Balkan Peninsula, the occupation of Servia is doubtful. Austria may allow the Principality her freedom of action."

SERVIA AND GREECE.

The negotiations between Servia and Greece for an offensive and defensive alliance appear to have come to naught.

The question whether Servia will participate in the war has for the present at any rate been decided in the negative. It is announced on German authority of the best kind that neither the Russian Government nor that of Servia has made any communication to that of Austria on the subject. At Berlin it is considered that the position of the Russian armies is by no means such as to render the questionable help of Servia necessary or desirable. M. Ristics, the Servian Prime Minister, has also just stated "that the militia have not received any orders to march, and that the partial mobilisation is only intended for the protection of the frontier." "Servia," he added, "remains neutral; but the continuance of her reserved attitude is nevertheless dependent on the course of military events and the political relations of Europe." Neither of these authorities notice the report of a possible march of Russian troops through Servia.

Servia has contracted a loan of 60,000,000f. under Russian guarantee with the Rothschilds. The railroad from Bucharest to Turn Severin is only open for Russian troops, and a body of them is expected to cross the Danube into Servia between Turn Severin and Gladova. A bridge at Gladova is ready for use in case the Russians wish to cross.

The Greek army on the frontier is said to number 12,000 men, and the population of Athens are impatient to declare war. Two German officers will be invited to take direction of the army, but no movement will occur until the Russians have advanced successfully. Four German ironclads have arrived in the Piræus. A Greek, known to be a Russian agent, has given 10,000 Chassepots and 2,000,000 cartridges to the National Defence Committee. The Greeks could not afford to refuse such a gift, from whomsoever it came. When the resolution of the Russian Government to decline operations in Roumelia this year becomes known in Greece, the people will appreciate the prudence of their Government.

ASIA MINOR.

The Grand Duke Michael has arrived at Alexandropol. General Mirsky is expected there immediately.

Ismail Pasha had proceeded seven miles into Russian territory and attacked the Russians at the village of Zorejlla, defeating them and occupying their position.

A Russian telegram says:—"The enemy is concentrated at Alikotchak. General Tergukassoff's detachment is at Igdyr, where he has been reinforced by a column detached from the main force. On the 4th inst. Colonel Komaroff defeated a flying column of 2,000 Turks. The enemy was put to flight by the sudden appearance on the field of two battalions of Tirailleurs, commanded by Colonel Prince Bariatinsky, who had marched forty-five versts in the night. The Turks had thirty men killed. Our losses were insignificant." According to the last news, Dervish Pasha, with four battalions of his best troops, has embarked at Tsikhisosire for the North.

The Turkish troops withdrawn from the Caucasus have disembarked at Varna, partly to reinforce Mehemet Ali, and partly Suleiman Pasha, whose army is to be increased to 70,000 men, of whom one-third remain at Adrianople. The others have to cross the Balkans.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND THE WAR.

In the House of Lords on Thursday Lord Feversham said that he had proposed to bring on a motion, but would withdraw it at Lord Beaconsfield's request, and the Premier complimented him on his forbearance. "It is the opinion of the Government that at this moment a discussion on the state of affairs in the East would not be advantageous to the public service, and might, indeed, have an injurious tendency." Her Majesty's policy was made known at the beginning of "this cruel and destructive war," and is one of "conditional neutrality," the "condition" being that British interests should not be "imperilled." In the Commons, Sir S. Northcote also asked Mr. Bentinck to withdraw a threatened motion, declaring, like his chief, that any discussion at the present moment would be disadvantageous to the public interests. Mr. Bentinck accordingly yielded.

In the House of Commons on Saturday, Mr. Monk, reverting to the question which he had put at the commencement of the sitting as to the occupation of Constantinople, said that though he did not now expect the Government to answer it, he could not but regret that Parliament was about to separate without some discussion on this point. Prince Gortschakoff's Circular, he conceived, contained the most convincing assurances that Russia had no selfish designs on Constantinople; and, believing that its temporary occupation by the Russian Army was not only probable, but necessary for the permanent settlement of the Eastern Question, he desired to enter his protest against this country being dragged into war with Russia to prevent such an event. Sir H. Wolff said that the Government could not answer Mr. Monk's question without holding out encouragement to one party or the other, and he strongly advised them, therefore, not to commit themselves on contingencies which might never occur. Mr. Forster, referring to a remark of Mr. Monk, denied the existence of any understanding between "the two Front Benches" to avoid a discussion. When the leaders in both Houses had undertaken the great responsibility of declaring that discussion would be mischievous, the Opposition Leaders had acquiesced in it; but they would not have taken that course if they had feared that the Government was likely to drag the country into war between this and the next session. Having carefully studied all that the Government had said and written, the Opposition felt convinced that the Government intended to abide by a policy of strict neutrality. As to Mr. Monk's question, the Government could not answer it without seeming, on the one hand, to give a hint to Russia to go to Constantinople, or, on the other, without committing a breach of neutrality. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who also disclaimed any understanding with the Opposition Front Bench, said that while the Government were grateful for the forbearance and the confidence of the House, they continued of opinion that the true interests of the country at this moment demanded reticence. The policy of the Government had been fully explained in Lord Derby's Despatch, and the tone in which the Russian Government had answered it was satisfactory. They wished to be perfectly frank and honest with Parliament, but at the same time prudent and cautious; and to enter now upon any discussion of hypothetical contingencies might be injurious and mischievous. Mr. Charley pointed out that Lord Beaconsfield's language was not simply "a strict," but "a strict and conditional neutrality"; and Mr. Whalley provoked much impatience by some discursive remarks on the influence of the Vatican and the intrigues of "Jesuits in bringing about the Crimean war." He also indulged in severe reflections on the policy of the Government towards Russia; after which the subject dropped, and the Appropriation Bill passed through committee.

On Saturday Mr. Fawcett asked for a pledge from the Government that, if they felt it necessary during the recess to depart from their policy of strict neutrality, they would call Parliament together before taking any decided step, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer replied that the Government were fully aware of their constitutional obligations, and fully determined to act up to them.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CASHMERE OF EUROPE.—The region in which General Gourko has been lately operating with his Cossacks, is the land whence by far the greatest quantity of attar of roses comes to Western Europe. Kasanlik, the name of which has so often figured during the past fortnight as a point of strategical importance, is also the centre of one of the most remarkable species of horticulture, or rather agriculture, to be found in the whole world. Around it, or near it, are the districts of Cirpan, Giopca, Karadshah-Dagh, Kojun-Tepe, Jeni-Saghra, all of which are devoted to this peculiar husbandry. The Mussulman tradition assigns the origin of the rose to the night of Mahomet's journey to heaven. The white roses sprang from the drops of sweat which fell from the blessed forehead of the prophet himself in the toilsome ascent; the sweat of Borak, the miraculous animal he rode, gave birth to the yellow ones; while the celestial drops which fell from Gabriel were the source of the red rose. The appearance of the neighbourhood of Kasanlik would favour a suspicion that the heavenward journey must have sorely tried the Archangel; and Count von Moltke, who was well acquainted with Bulgaria and the Balkans, has styled the valley of the Tundja "the Cashmere of Europe, the Turkish Gulistan, the land of roses." Roses are not grown there as with us in isolated patches in gardens, but in fields and in ridges as if they were no better than potatoes. It would be difficult to imagine anything more charming than the appearance of those rose-fields; and any painter who should attempt to reproduce this picture would assuredly be charged with exaggeration. But it would be impossible to catch the alternations of colour both among the roses themselves and the green leaves of the shrubs. Hundreds of millions of rose-leaves strew the ground, and are useless for the chief object in view. It is calculated that about one-fourth of the leaves are lost in this way; perhaps as much more either fail to come to the requisite perfection, or are unavoidably wasted. The entire produce of the Tekne, or region, of which Kasanlik is the centre, is estimated at between 800 and 900 kilogrammes (from 195 to 220 imperial gallons) of rose oil. The wealth of water in the valley is prodigious; springs are not only numerous, but most abundant in yield. There is a general system of irrigation which, remembering that the country is Bulgaria and not Lombardy, is admirable. The whole valley was a picture of prosperity, the result of natural fertility carefully tended by human industry. Where roses are not cultivated, heavy crops of maize are gathered, and along the slopes and down by the waterside are numerous herds and flocks. Kasanlik itself is a town of 10,000 inhabitants, and is surrounded by magnificent walnut woods, which also are a source of commercial industry. Von Moltke speaks of the situation as one of the rarest beauty. Many of the trees, he says, cover an extent of 100ft. with their spreading branches, while countless wild pigeons fill the woods with their cooing. The murmuring or the rush of waters is heard in every direction; the sky itself presents perpetually changing aspects by reason of the neighbouring mountains; while the deliciously fresh air is redolent with delicate perfume. About twenty-five miles to the south-east of Kasanlik, and divided from the Tundja valley by a range of hills, is Eski-Saghra, a town of 18,000 inhabitants, also a notable industrial centre, the best silk and the finest wheat in Turkey being produced in the surrounding district. With such diligent husbandmen, a moderately fair Government would soon make the whole of Southern Bulgaria the richest and most productive country in Europe. The campaign of which these beautiful and fertile valleys are now the theatre, will have probably ruined the rose culture, at least for many a year.—*Times.*

CONDITION OF THE BULGARIAN PEASANTRY.—The special correspondent of the *Daily News* who was present at the battle of Plevna writes as follows with respect to the condition of the Bulgarian peasantry:—"It remains to be seen whether this Plevna reverse is to diminish or add to the chances of early peace. I fear the former because the Turks will be naturally encouraged, and the military honour of the Russians will be at stake. Just before the Plevna discomfiture, I believe that the frame of mind at Biela was eminently pacific. The truth is that, so far as regards the army, the war has lost its character of a crusade. And if the army is thus affected by the exercise of the commonest faculty of observation, its views must react on Russia, with which epistolary communication, if slow, is unrestricted. Any number of officers, many of high rank, and more than one in the personal suite of His Majesty the Emperor, have spoken to me without reserve on a topic which is of deep interest for us all. They declare themselves to have laboured under the most profound misconception as to the condition of the Bulgarian Christians. They had believed them oppressed, impoverished, impeded in the exercise of their religion, sure not for an hour of their lives, of the

honour of their women, of their property. It was in this belief that they thrilled with enthusiasm for a veritable war of liberation. And, they continue, how do we actually find the Bulgarians? They live in the most perfect comfort; the Russian peasant cannot compare with them in comfort, competence, or prosperity. Personally, I may add that I should be glad if the English peasantry were at all near them in these attributes. Their grain crops stretch far and wide. Every village has its teeming herd of cattle, brood mares with foals, goats, and sheep. The houses are palaces compared with the subterranean hovels of the Roumanian and Wallachian peasants. Last year's straw is yet in their stackyards. Milk may be bought in every house. In the villages, for one mosque, there are half-a-dozen Christian churches. No man experiences anywhere a difficulty in getting silver for a napoleon. And the Bulgarian villager is by no means enthusiastic over his 'liberation'—especially as it entails while in progress a fair chance of his having his house burnt and his throat cut by the Turkish irregulars. But while he is spared this fate, and pending the achievement of his liberation, he has as good a notion of turning an honest penny as if he were a Yankee or a Scot. He 'sticks' the Russians unmercifully. So far as circumstances permit, they pay for all Bulgarian property, in the way of forage, &c., which they consume. And don't they have to pay! The Bulgarian realises that in this matter he is the master of the situation, and lines his pocket accordingly—puts money in his purse, Iago."

Outrages in Armenia.—The news from Van daily becomes more revolting. Faik Pasha seems quite unable to restrain the Kurds, who commit every description of atrocity unopposed and unchecked. The American missionaries have been forced, for fear of their lives, to take refuge in a boat on the lake, where they enjoy comparative immunity, although they have to be careful, when in need of provisions, to land at night and move off again before dawn. Their Christian charges have been subjected to the grossest treatment—crops cut and carried away, cattle killed, villages burnt, men murdered, and, worst of all, women and even children violated. Churches afford no refuge for these wretched mortals. Ten who fled for safety into the church at Utch-Kilissi were there foully murdered, and at Tsitawaukh, near Erzeroum, the Armenian superior of the monastery has been threatened with death if he ventures to preach again. Hundreds of Christian villages in Armenia, having been gutted and fired by these miscreants, are completely abandoned, and their inhabitants have fled for refuge into the Russian camps. Hordes of fanatics, led by Moollahs, have joined the Turkish army; their fury, daily fed by the exhortations and addresses of the priests, who have denounced the war as a menace to the Ottoman religion, leads them to commit every conceivable excess against the defenceless Christians, whom they accuse of furnishing information to the enemy. Facts prove the reverse, for as yet not a single Armenian spy has been discovered by the authorities, while several Kurds and Circassians, preferring money to faith, have paid for their treachery with their lives; in short, every spy hanged during this war has been a Mahomedan.—*Times Correspondent.*

The Reign of Terror South of the Balkans.—The Constantinople correspondent of the *Times* says:—"The news from the districts near which fighting has been going on gets worse and worse. At Eski Saghra all the male Christian native population had been sentenced to death by the Turkish general, but women and children have been spared. This news has been brought by two American missionaries who were protected by Turkish friends, and have arrived at Constantinople. They lost everything they possessed. The news is also confirmed by consular despatches. Your naval correspondent, writing from Karabunar on Aug. 5, expresses his belief in the news, and explains the sentence on the ground that every male Bulgarian is accused of being either a spy or an open enemy. He speaks favourably of the conduct of the Turkish Regulars, but severely blames the Government for employing, or at least not controlling, irregular troops consisting of Circassians and Zeibeks, who scour the country, committing the worst excesses of cruelty and lust on women and children. Even fugitive women and children who come for protection to the Turks have to be guarded by regulars, lest they should be further injured by these savages, whom their wounds and utterly destitute, half-starving condition move to no pity. Karabunar is crowded with fugitives, and, as there is only one well in the place, and there are 16,000 troops, the wounded and sick fugitives are perishing of thirst. The Pasha proposes to distribute the fugitives about Constantinople, Adrianople, and Philippopolis, but your correspondent says no kind of arrangements have been made to receive them, and suggests the formation of a city of refuge in an island near Constantinople, under the protection of a neutral flag and a mutual guarantee from the belligerents. Assistance from England is most urgently needed. The horrors of last year sink into insignificance compared with these. Thousands of people are homeless, the crops are neglected and lie rotting on the ground, and no sort of provision has been made for the winter. From other letters which reach me I have little doubt that the Bulgarians are behaving much in the same way as the Bashi-Bazouks, and, in fact, a civil war of extermination is being carried on which will make it impossible for Christians and Mahomedans ever to live together again in the disturbed districts. Appalling accounts continue to come in of the misery of the fugitives from the districts which have been devastated by Bashi-Bazouks and Bulgarians. Thousands of women and children are homeless and perishing for want of shelter, medical attendance, and food. Immediate help from England on the largest possible scale is most sorely needed."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The bridge across the Danube is doubled at last, the second structure being half-a-mile from the first. Reinforcements for the Russian army are passing over the bridges at the rate of a brigade a day as they arrive by railway.

The two monitors taken at Nicopolis have been repaired, and are now ready for action. It is believed that they will be directed against the Turkish monitor at Rustchuk, which suffered in a recent contest, and is short of coals.

It is announced from Constantinople that martial law is declared applicable to the Bulgarians who have revolted throughout the towns of Roumelia recently reoccupied by the Turks, such as Kezanlik, Karlova, Kalofer, and Yeni Saghra.

The Porte has informed Mr. Layard that it is about to complete the fortifications of Gallipoli, and increase the garrison there, and further that it will itself be able to defend Gallipoli against any attack. The Porte has always shown itself very jealous of its authority when projects of a foreign, even if amicable, occupation of Gallipoli have been discussed. The British Government would, however, be quite welcome to garrison Gallipoli on condition of signing a treaty of offensive and defensive alliance with the Turkish Government. Two thousand workmen are employed on the fortifications of Gallipoli, carrying out the plans laid down in 1855. Krupp guns are constantly being sent thither.

The insurgent chief Despotovic, who had been interned in Austria, has escaped into Bosnia.

In Candia the Turkish troops are retiring into the fortified places. The Turkish fleet blocks the chief inlets.

A telegram from Constantinople states that Mr. Layard has been authorised by Lord Derby to send to England all destitute British subjects desirous of leaving Turkey.

A mass meeting was held at Presburg on Sunday, in the presence of General Klapka, at which a resolution was adopted that, the Ottoman Empire having granted a constitution to its people, it was desirable that the Empire should be maintained.

There are 10,000 Bulgarian refugees at Adrianople and 6,000 at Selvi.

It is stated that the Czar has recrossed the Danube and taken up his residence at Fratesti, near Giurgevo.

Major Liegnitz, the Prussian Attaché, who attended the operations of the Russian advance under General Gourko, in a despatch to his Government, has written a terribly severe condemnation of the Turks for their violation of the laws of war, and their horrible torture of wounded Russian soldiers at Shipka on the 19th ult.

The Russian Ministry has ordered all the Circassians to be removed from the rebellious districts into the interior of Russia. They are to be replaced by Russian settlers.

Mukhtar Pasha has been deprived of twenty-eight battalions of regulars, who have been sent to Varna, Shumla, Adrianople, &c. They are replaced by irregular troops, some being of the worst description.

A story of Count Moltke's opinion on the Russian prospects in the present struggle is circulating in Germany. The great strategist was recently asked by a German nobleman of high rank what course he thought the war would take, and if he did not predict the early and complete subjugation of Turkey. "Certainly," replied the field-marshal, "the Russians will be victorious, only their leader must not lack the four G's which every General requires." "What four G's?" "*Geld, geduld, geni, und glück,*" replied Von Moltke (money, patience, genius, and good luck).

The following is the summary given by the *Militär-Wochenblatt* of the battle of Plevna:—"The battle of Plevna was begun at nine a.m. on the 29th of July, and continued without interruption until the morning of the following day. The Turkish troops, including detachments brought up from Nissa, Sophia, and Widdin, amounted to 80,000 men, and occupied an exceedingly strong position along a range of heights bordering the River Vid. The Russian army, consisting of General von Krudener's corps, one of General Schackosky's divisions, and Scobeleff's brigade of Cossacks, attacked both flanks of the Turkish position. The division of General Schackosky's corps drove the enemy back from three positions at the point of the bayonet, but, owing to the heavy fire poured upon it by troops stationed on higher ground, could not maintain itself in the localities it had won. In the centre a Russian battalion succeeded in occupying Plevna for a short time, but was soon obliged to fall back again by the cross-fire which the Turks poured upon it, suffering very severely as it retired. On both sides the losses were very heavy, those of the Russians being estimated at 2,000 killed and 4,000 wounded."

Is Russia a Menace to the World?—There is one great check on the expansion of Russia—the *financial*, the strain on revenues which are not very elastic. Russia is weak internally, is beginning to feel that extension is weakness, and that her conquests, though profitable to the employés and young militaires restless and panting for promotion, are costly to the nation. Wherever you go in Russia the impression is, plenty of land, but where are the people? Russia, for instance, has acquired the territory of the Amour, in East China—a region as large as France—but with the sparse population, she can do little to colonise it or develop its resources (though the Valley of the Oxus is very fertile). The same with Central Asia, where she has a territory equal in extent to Austria, Germany, and Belgium taken together, but the population of the whole is not greater than that of London. Russia is fermenting internally with revolutions and tendencies towards some form of representative government. When this is secured it will direct attention from comparatively barren conquests abroad to consolidation at home. Russia, now heaving with socialistic throes, will turn her eyes inward, and with this the sting will be taken from the military party. Russia is the champion and deliverer of 20,000,000 Slavs, akin to her in language, religion, and race, who have been for centuries tyrannised over by Turkey and Hungary. As an illustration of Turkish hatred, we give the copy of a Turkish Burial Certificate to a Christian:—"We certify to the priest of the Church of Mary that the impure, putrefied, stinking carcase of Sardeh may be concealed underground.—Signed, Said Faiji." In Asia, Russia has to open out to civilisation the regions between the Caspian and China, with the vast district of the Amour down to the Pacific slope. Her necessities of new openings for trade have propelled her on, more than military ambition, in her recent advances in Asia, while, as to her career in Asia, we answer in the words of a Russian:—"If mankind is to form, in the future, an harmonious whole, the solitudes of Asia must be stirred up, vivified, and the death-like quiet prevailing there must be broken. Tartary, Tibet, Mongolia, the snowy northern regions of Asia, deserve as much human, European, civilising solicitude as Asia Minor, India, parts of America, or any other spot whatever on the globe." Is there any other country but Russia to do this? England has more than enough in India. England, in 1854, had lavished her blood and treasure in order to preserve the integrity and independence of Turkey. Were the Moslems of the East thankful for this? So far from it—Persia fought against England in 1856, and was on the side of Russia against the Turks, as she is at the present moment; and in 1857 the Mussulmans of India rose in mutiny, and were, with the exception of the Punjab Mussulmans, inveterately hostile to the English.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Viceroy of India will proceed to Madras on the 16th inst.

The famine is increasing in the Madras Presidency.

The death from fever of Dr. Black, of the Livingstone Expedition, has been announced at Capetown.

The *Times* has a special telegram from Shanghai, which says:—"It is asserted as beyond doubt that the Chinese intend to stop the Woosung Railway in October."

Mrs. Stewart, the widow of the late Mr. A. T. Stewart, of New York, has undertaken the cost of the erection of a cathedral on Long Island. The amount designed is said to be 300,000*l.*

Vanity Fair hears from Rome, on excellent authority, that the formation of a fortified camp in the immediate vicinity of the capital is to be proceeded with at once, in order to guard the city against the possibility of capture by a *coup de main*.

Official intelligence has been received from Cuba by the Spanish Government stating that the insurgents have been defeated by the royal troops in six consecutive engagements on the banks of the Rio San Pedro, in the Eastern Department. Several members of the Revolutionary Junta and two influential insurgent leaders were killed.

Wreck of a Mail Steamer.—Great Loss of Life.—Advices from Panama announce the loss of the steamer Eten on the 15th ult., seventy miles north of Valparaiso. It is estimated that there were 160 persons on board, forty-three of whom on the 18th ult. had reached the shore. Of twenty persons who took refuge on a rock only three were saved; the others, after much suffering, having thrown themselves into the sea. Altogether upwards of 100 persons are believed to have perished.

President Hayes' Southern Policy.—The Republican leaders in the State of Maine share the dislike with which the Southern policy of Mr. Hayes is generally regarded by the party to which he owes his election. The manifesto which they have just issued may be taken as the work of Mr. Blaine. It declares that the consolidation of the power of the South is dangerous to the Union, "the negroes being practically disfranchised." The Republicans of Maine were never partial to compromises, and they will spare no effort to restore in their favour the "balance of power" in the Southern States.

Intrigues of the Vatican.—The *Daily News* published the following telegram from Rome, dated Sunday:—"Count Resimont, M. Delhery, editor of *La Croix*, of Brussels, and M. Verkouven, of Ghent, members of the committee of the Saint Boniface Association of the Netherland Zouaves, have sent the Pope an address signed by 300 volunteers, and

by the delegates of several Zouave confraternities in Holland, all solemnly pledging themselves to expend blood and treasure for the cause of His Holiness and the temporal power the instant the summons is sounded. I am assured that the Bourbon sympathisers in Naples are being reorganised under the auspices of the ex-King's agents and the Ultramontane party of action. Francis II., it is believed, cherishes hopes, should the war become European, of raising an insurrection in Sicily and throughout his former kingdom, in conformity with the plan conceived by Generals Kanzler and Charette."

THE LATE CARDINAL ANTONELLI.—The two witnesses for the Countess Lambertini who had been ordered to be specially examined in consequence of their advanced age, appeared before the court at Rome yesterday. They were the archpriest Venditti and the late cardinal's major-domo Tamburlani. A telegram to the *Daily News* says:—"There were present for the Countess Lambertini the advocates Gallini and Tajani, and for the brothers Antonelli four lawyers. The hearing lasted seven hours. Venditti's depositions were occasionally rather vacillating, but Tamburlani's were so clear, precise, and frank, and contributed so many details, that the judge was powerfully impressed. For instance, he deponed that Cardinal Antonelli slapped Mdme. Marconi on the face the instant she advised him to marry his daughter to Menotti Garibaldi. Venditti and Tamburlani recognised the portrait of a foreign lady as Loreta's mother, who used in 1853 and 1854 to visit the cardinal at the Vatican. Notwithstanding that the counsel of the brothers Antonelli tried to contest many points, the effect of Tamburlani's evidence was overwhelming." From another source it is stated that the examination was conducted in private; all accounts of its results must therefore be received with some hesitation. The Pope is said to have written a letter to Victor Emmanuel begging him to suppress all further proceedings in the case. His Majesty, in reply, said he had no control over the course of the law.

THE SAMOA ISLANDS.—The Government of the Samoan Islands has applied to the United States and Great Britain to establish a protectorate. The Washington Cabinet have considered the matter, without, however, coming to any decision. According to American papers, news reached San Francisco on the 26th of July to the effect that the American flag has been hoisted at Samoa and allegiance formally tendered to the United States. This report is doubtful. The *Daily News* says:—"The Germans lay claim to the ownership of upwards of 300,000 acres of land in the group, and they are said to contemplate an extensive scheme of colonisation, in order, if possible, to swamp other nationalities. Naturally, the natives are a good deal alarmed at the prospect of being elbowed out of their own country. The British Consul appears to have done the best he could for their protection in very difficult circumstances, and in consequence placards inveighing against him have been posted on the trees, which in Samoa take the place of walls or hoardings. A petition has been forwarded by the chiefs to Sir Arthur Gordon, Governor of Fiji; and before long it will be necessary for the Queen's Ministers to decide whether they will be prepared to accede to the request that they would establish a Protectorate in the islands. Whatever answer they may return, it is manifestly desirable that they should endeavour to arrive at an understanding with Germany and the United States as to a common policy in the Pacific."

MR. PONGO.

(From the *Spectator*.)

It is a speciality of places of public entertainment in England, that the approaches to them shall be made as deterrent as possible; that the persons whose duty it is to admit the public shall wear an aspect of gloom and grudge, as of men who know how mistaken one is in supposing one is going to see anything for the shilling entrance-fee, and would prefer to warn the public off the premises, but, such an act of charity being forbidden, would at least suggest by their grumpy carelessness the vanity of human expectations with regard to the particular entertainment beyond their respective doors or turntables. Who has not noted the surprise, the discomfiture, the sudden falling of the spirits of foreign visitors, when they face for the first time the bare-boarded backwoods-hut-like approaches to the temples of Art, Science, and Bric-à-brac at South Kensington, the insecure, slanting passages, like nothing but the improvised covered way to Mr. Myers's Circus-stable, which lead to the jocosely-styled Horticultural Gardens flower shows, and the squalid disorder of the Low-Level entrance to the Crystal Palace, which combines a rickety and dangerous staircase from the outside with some dirty pens inside, through which the aspirant to the delights of the palace hurries, over loose, filthy, unevenly-laid boards, but in which he is confined on his way back to the train, under conditions similar to those of a "lock-up," where the tenants are habitually disorderly. We have always put up with things of this kind—was not there a perceptible undercurrent of misgiving when decent entrances to certain theatres were "introduced" by managers whose minds had been influenced by foreign customs in this respect?—and we probably always shall put up with them, but still we must air our grievances concerning the entrances to the Aquarium at Westminster, the dreariest place by daylight—that is, unless our experience was exceptional—within our knowledge. Not the gentle melancholy of which Dickens writes as mostly characteristic of places where one is encouraged by advertisement to expect "a happy day," but a stronger feeling, akin to dismay, takes possession of the visitor who has passed through the creaking turntable and the doors, with the rough handles which he is to "push" or "pull," according to circumstances, and finds himself in the dingy vastness of the Aquarium, where the tanks are thinly occupied by a few common specimens of fish, often not of the kinds indicated on the cards supposed to guide the visitor to their contents, and where the smaller cases, containing the tortoises, water-serpents, and baby-alligators, are exceedingly foul-smelling. Dust and dreariness—both of which, of course, may be accidental—are the pervading elements of the "entertainment," as of so many others; the floor, when we visited it, was as dusty as that of any Metropolitan station, the walls and pillars are disfigured with advertisements, the flowers and shrubs are of the commonest kinds; the galleries are narrow walks between dust-laden rails and tables, covered with ghastly models of fish, and specimens of the blighted hopes of the Zoological Gardens. A plaster cast of an infant hippopotamus, with one leg broken off short, and a "preparation" of monkey, are among the cheering objects which one encounters on one's dusty way to the inconvenient corner at which one finds the narrow door through which one passes to an audience of the distinguished gorilla, Mr. Pongo. At a dirty table stands a boy, who distributes dirty cards of admission to a space in a gallery formed by a rough enclosure of boards, leaving a narrow passage—exactly like the prisoners' way in a police-court, with the coarsely-papered wall of the gallery on one side—which is fitted on three sides with rows of chairs, the two-shilling seats being in front, and offering no advantage whatever over the one-shilling seats, except to persons of lively imagination, who discern some in the red rope at their back. A space, with a raised floor, enclosed within wirework, and furnished with a couple of chairs, a horsewhip, a ladder, and a brown blanket, forms the scene of the exhibition of Mr. Pongo and his friends—August, the chimpanzee, and the dog Flok. As the audience collect, the depression of disillusion is to be read in their faces. What is the necessity for stowing away the object of so much reasonably expected attraction in a dirty corner, and surrounding him with deterrent accessories? The outer edge of the gallery is shut up with a suffocating curtain, lest a glimpse of the bewildering delights below should be caught by the dismal assemblage who wait for the appearance of Pongo, and a boy, shrill and irrepressible as Dr. Ginery Dunkle (of Troy) himself, screams incessant admonitions about the taking of tickets, even while Mr. Pongo's German attendant is laboriously enunciating the few sentences in English in which he relates the history and describes the habits of his interesting charge.

Mr. Pongo is a very nice beast, but he is not so clever as August, nor so sympathetic as Flok, and one feels about him after a little while as one feels about the heavy child in a nursery—that he is good and safe, but hardly amusing. There is something disconcerting about him, too, though it is in one's own mind, not in him; it is the inclination to treat him rather as a human being of the unintelligent, than as an animal of the exceptionally intelligent, kind. One speaks to him with marked distinctness and emphasis, and pets him, not with the flippant smartness one would bestow upon "Nature's Pulchinello," his companion, but gravely, and with an effort to make him understand, as one might pet one of the harmless "cases" at the Earlswood Asylum. In the quiet heaviness of his manner there is something that makes one feel patient and painstaking, as with a creature of slow brain and perception; and when he claps his dreadfully human hands, with the black skin in wrinkles on them like ill-fitting gloves, and pounds them on the floor, demanding notice and applauding himself, one claps and nods at him just as one would at a deficient child. He is singularly dumb, too, rarely uttering any sound at all, while one of his friends chatters freely, and the other barks in all the exuberant delight of games of play, of which Mr. Pongo is for the most part only a spectator, decidedly at a disadvantage where general liveliness is in question. When seated on the ground, with his grey back, his round, neatly-formed head, with comparatively small and close-sitting ears, turned towards one, his long arms folded, his spare small legs, so disproportionate in size to his powerful arms, hidden, his lean thighs tucked close to his thick, bulging, ridgy sides, he is wonderfully like a very strongly-built child to whom "rickets" has come unaccountably, and in contradiction of his apparent constitution. Mr. Pongo's face is amiable, and his attendant declares him to be "very good-natured"; the eyes are serious and quiet, by no means so melancholy as the eyes of most monkeys with whom we have previously been acquainted; and when he hitches himself against the wires of his cage, his legs extended, one arm lying negligently across his lap, and the other indolently raised while he lazily scratches his head, he reminds one of Punch's pictures of an Irish Fenian, without the ferocity, the tattered tail-coat, and the brimless hat. He is not four years old, but he looks fifty, and there is not the contradiction between his face and his manners which exists in the case of most monkeys, for his demeanour is likewise middle-aged. Not, perhaps, that he remembers the Gaboon, his captivity, and his slaughtered relatives, but that he thinks solemn spectators who don't talk to him a bore, and the corner of the Aquarium gallery dull. He is said to be fond of children, and he certainly brightened up when some came in, but they were shy of him, and did not respond to his hint that a little applause would be agreeable. He gravely climbs the ladder up which August skips with derisive ease, and tests the strength of the wire-work screen of his cage with nice attention; but he seemingly makes up his mind each time that it will not "bear," and relinquishes the attempt to follow the dauntless chimpanzee, who rushes about overhead doing daring trapeze feats, dangling himself by the ropes, just out of reach of the barking and jumping dog, and mocking the much superior strength of Mr. Pongo by his far greater agility. Sometimes he has a friendly rough-and-tumble with Flok, or gives August an admonitory cuff and roll-over; but for the most part he sits on the floor, watching their play, or arranging his blanket, in which he packs his feet up exactly as we have seen children pack their feet up in their blankets on winter nights, and he uses his hands in these operations in a thoroughly human way. Very like a man and a brother is he when he drinks out of a bottle, grasping it in both hands, putting his head well back, and emptying the last drop down his throat. It is quite a pleasant diversion from the close resemblance, when, his attention being attracted to another chance of securing the blanket, he transfers the bottle to his foot, holding it firmly with the toes. His slight, flat, small-heeled feet are more like those of a man than the feet of any other monkey, we are told, but the likeness ceases with the toes; these are fingers, and have all the movements of fingers; nor is the face human below the brow and eyes. The absence of a nasal promontory, the wide, sunk, black nostrils, like those of a hippopotamus on a very small scale, the semicircular sweep of the mouth; the thick, calf-like tongue, and something in the action of the jaw and throat when the animal lifts up his head and one sees him from the side which also reminds one of a calf, form an unlikeness to the human race as forcible as the resemblance in other respects is striking.

Mr. Pongo is in excellent health now, but has had two illnesses since he was sold to Dr. Falkenstein, of the Prussian Natural History Expedition, for two gallons of rum, and exchanged his chain in an African village for the more tolerable conditions of his European career. Perhaps he was too young when the hunters took him to have any dreams now of the deep, cool, dark forest, the great luscious fruits, the glorious climbs, and bounds, and fights, the long migrating journeys of the grey-coated community, the booming, inarticulate speech which was the language of his tribe; and it may be that he is happy enough in his artificial life. It includes all the necessaries and many of the luxuries of civilisation. He goes to bed at eight every evening, "in a very comfortable bed, and sleeps till eight in the morning," his attendant told us, "always lying on his side, with his hand under his cheek on the pillow, like a man," and he eats numerous meals with unfailing appetite. Once a day he has an ample repast of roast meat and potatoes; and his breakfast, luncheon, and supper consist of milk, wine-and-water, bread, rice, eggs, fruit, and vegetables. He is on the best of terms with his attendant, and it was very funny to see him lying negligently on his back in a slanting-upwards position on the ladder, his eyes turned up to the ceiling, one hand dangling downwards, and the other thrown round the neck of his friend, as the latter repeated his brief formula to a freshly-arrived batch of spectators. Mr. Pongo had quite an irresistible air of enjoying the proceeding; he rolled his tongue about, and when the sentence, "His present value is five thousand pounds!" was spoken, he withdrew his arm, gave the speaker a friendly cuff, as who should say, "What, you're at it again, are you? Fetch 'em with figures, my boy!" and dived rapidly over and under the rung of the ladder, looking at the audience upside-down from between his own legs with a composed gravity infinitely comical. He never attempts to stand upright; he is too heavy, his attendant explained, and his legs are not yet strong enough to support his weight. But it is expected that he will grow to a height of six feet, and then stand upright, as the full-grown gorilla has been seen by travellers to do. At present his mode of progression is like that of a tumbler who is about to be picked up suddenly by a pinch behind from the clown in the ring. He walks on his feet and his hands—the latter turned in, fist-shape, and looking like small club-feet—and his back slopes gently down from his broad shoulders to his thin, misshapen flanks. Mr. Pongo is an interesting, if not precisely a fascinating animal, and the strongest proof of his quaint suggestion of kinship with his visitors is that one is never free from a queer sense of bad manners in asking questions about him before his grave, black face; and that one leaves him with a wish that he might have something to do, or at least something to read.

IMPORTATION OF MEAT.—The aggregate importations of dead meat into the United Kingdom from foreign countries in the three months of April, May, and June last, amounted to 456,717 cwt. Into the various ports in the three months ended June 30 last the total value of dead meat imported was 1,122,062*l*. Of that amount 230,041*l*. worth was imported into the port of London, and 555,365*l*. into Liverpool. Glasgow took the next largest share, 227,867*l*.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

THE

LONDON FINE ART ASSOCIATION,

148, STRAND, W.C.,

Have concluded arrangements by which readers of this week's *Nonconformist* will be entitled to receive one copy of a magnificent Engraving, by ZOBELL, of the celebrated painting by the late

MELVILLE,

entitled—

"THE TRUE VINE."

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Of all the efforts that have been made for portraying scenes in the life of our Saviour, scarcely any is entitled to such universal approbation as that which the above beautiful picture merits. "I am the true Vine, and My Father is the husbandman," are the words upon which the sublime subject is allegorically approached. Our blessed Lord is represented in the engraving demonstrating the truth of His Holy Word, and seeking for examples to illustrate his parable from the bountiful gifts of beauteous nature which surround Him. Encircled by a vine, His right hand grasps a tendril of the plant, while the left is outstretched in the act of illustration.

The artist has depicted with a master hand the overflowing look of ineffable and yearning love upon the Divine countenance, surrounded by the heavenly halo. The vine on the left of our Lord has an axe cleft in the root thereof, symbolical of the words of John the Baptist in Matt. iii. ver. 10, "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the tree, therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Thus the antithesis of the picture is given. Our Lord holding in His right hand the growing, or *true* vine, unto which He likens Himself, while on the other hand is shadowed forth the destruction of the "tree which beareth not good fruit." In the background the short twilight of an Eastern evening is descending upon the mountains, at the foot of which grow spreading palms, and other Oriental trees.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1877.

SUMMARY.

THE news of the last week from the seat of war, though not marked by events of surpassing interest, is of no little importance as to the future. The campaign in Bulgaria is to be for the present limited to military issues; the political objects sought by covering a wide area, and hurrying towards Constantinople, not having been attained. All the Russian troops on the south side of the Balkans have been recalled, and it is probable that General Gourko will in due time abandon even the Shipka Pass, in order that all the Russian forces may be concentrated nearer the Danube. Hither as fast as possible reinforcements are being sent. The Imperial Guards, 60,000 strong, have set out from St. Petersburg, and several other *corps d'armeés* are on the march to Sistova. One effect of this change of Russian tactics will be to leave the Bulgarian population of Roumelia to the vengeance of their Turkish masters, who have already begun to chastise them severely for their revolt, and to indulge in fresh outrages. Another consequence will be to make the Greeks pause in their intended operations in Thessaly and Epirus. Apparently the Turks, unless under highly favourable conditions, do not intend to abandon their defensive attitude. They are strengthening the entrenchments of Plevna and Rasgrad, and would gladly see their enemy waste his strength in assailing them. The discovery made at Plevna that the Russians followed the obsolete plan of hurling masses of troops upon the Turks who, with their modern breechloaders, were able to mow down their assailants with terrible slaughter has, in the estimation of military critics, considerably altered the prospects of the campaign.

The two Emperors have met at Ischl, but the results of the interview do not seem to have been very marked. The sovereigns of Germany and Austria seem to be as cordial as ever, and disposed to adhere to the triple alliance. But the policy of Count Andrassy remains intact. Though Austria is mobilising some portion of her army at considerable cost, it is possible her attitude may be one rather of "benevolent neutrality" than of "armed neutrality"—the fear of Russian ascendancy in Turkey being no longer a question of immediate practical interest. While the Roumanian army, such as it is, has crossed the Danube to garrison Nicopolis and swell the Russian rear, the Czar declines Sorvian help, albeit Prince Milan is calling out his forces and contracting a loan. At the same time this threatening attitude may detain some Turkish regiments on the Servian frontier, and after all, if urgent necessity requires it, the Court of Vienna might not very decisively object to the march of a Russian corps across that territory with a view to turn the strong position of Osman Pasha at Plevna, or oblige him to refrain from a combined movement with Mehemet Ali.

Parliament has been prorogued without any further debate on the Eastern Question, which has been prevented by the statement of Ministers that such discussion would be injurious to the public interests. The Prime Minister has, however, vouchsafed a declaration in the Upper House to the effect that the policy of the Government, now as heretofore, is one of "conditional neutrality"—the condition being that British interests should not be "imperilled." An attempt on the part of Mr. Monk in the House of Commons to elicit information as to the course the Government would take in the event of a Russian occupation of Constantinople did not succeed. Sir Stafford Northcote declined to answer the question, and was supported by Mr. Forster, who took the opportunity of saying that the leaders of the Opposition did not urge discussion, being convinced that the Cabinet intended to abide by a policy of strict neutrality. The Chancellor of the Exchequer repeated that their policy was fully explained in Lord Derby's despatch, and that the "tone" of Prince Gortschakoff's reply was satisfactory. Parliament rises at a time when the Muscovite cause is in a very depressed state, and when the Porte has become independent of external advice, and is even undertaking to fortify Gallipoli on its own account. How it will be should there be great battles in Bulgaria, in which the Russians are signally victorious, is another question. Some 10,000 British troops are now "eating their heads off" at Malta, and if they should be ordered back again, we should feel that our neutrality was more secure.

The Session which closed yesterday has been less productive of useful legislation than any we have had to chronicle for many years. To begin with, the Government promised very little, and only a very limited portion of their modest programme has been carried out. Our Parliamentary machinery has been terribly strained, and the less said about the result the better. The mountain has been in labour, and has scarcely brought forth a mouse.

With that cunning which is characteristic of lawless political adventurers, the French Government have not even yet announced the date of the elections. Like Mr. Micawber, they are waiting to see what may turn up to their advantage. So far their prospect is anything but hopeful. Proscriptions and prosecutions, and barefaced evasions of the law, have had so little effect in shaking the autonomy of the Republican party that M. Fourtou's newspaper supporters can suggest nothing further except the proclamation of a state of siege! This notable expedient is, however, disclaimed by semi-official organs. Such an extreme course, it is evidently felt, would be not only revolting but ridiculous. There is absolutely nothing to call for it. We never remember a case in which the great mass of the people were so clearly law-abiding, and those who administer the law its open, flagrant, and hypocritical violators, and in which a popular verdict was sought to be wrested by sheer terrorism against the better sense of the people. Something, however, must be done. Marshal MacMahon, in the extremity to which the Conservative revolutionists are reduced, is about to make another visit to the departments. He is going to Cherbourg and its neighbourhood. These expedients are too late. The courts of law are giving ominous and repeated decisions against the arbitrary acts of the Government in respect to the Press, and there does not seem to be the shadow of an expectation, notwithstanding the unceasing efforts and arbitrary policy of M. Fourtou, that the Liberal majority in the Chamber of Deputies will be substantially reduced.

We have referred above to the vengeance which the Turks would be likely to take upon the rebellious Bulgarians after the unfortunate retirement of the Russian troops from the southern slopes of the Balkans. It has come all too soon. This is the terrible story given on "trustworthy authority" by the military correspondent of the *Times*, lately in those parts, and fully corroborated by the accounts which have reached the special correspondent of the *Daily News*. It seems that Eski Sagbra, when taken by the Russians, was, at their request, garrisoned by the Bulgarian Legion, who preserved order, and do not appear to have committed any excesses. A large force from Adrianople at last turned the scale, and the legion was driven out with heavy losses. We commend the subjoined description of what followed to any of our readers—if such there be, which we doubt—who, with Lord Beaconsfield, have still a lingering belief that, on the misleading plea of "British interests," we ought to expend the blood and treasure of England in supporting these monsters in human form:—

The terrified inhabitants endeavoured to follow, but Circassians occupied the road to Kezanlik, and the Turks set a guard round the town, so that none might escape, and then began a scene of fiendish cruelty, the details of which could never be published. Neither age nor sex was spared, and death was not the worst injury inflicted; for the Turks well know how to make men, women, and children long for oblivion before they accord it. The notables, who had fled before the Russians, and spent the interval in the neighbouring villages with bands of Bashi-Bazouks, now reappeared and sought out and slew the dwellers on their own farms. The names of these notables given to me are Tefik Bey, Sedik Bey, Akif Bey, and Dajia Ahmed. *The hospital was burnt with all the Russian and Bulgarian wounded*, only a few inhabitants escaped, and it is supposed that in the town and the neighbouring vilayet, one of the fairest and richest spots in Europe, *thirty churches, 500 schools, and thousands of houses were ruthlessly burnt, while the number of peasants and townsfolk massacred amounted to as many as all the Russian killed and wounded in the battle of Plevna*. In this carnage took part the Turkish merchants—those gentlemanlike persons so much admired for their quiet and dignified manners. The massacre went on during the night by the light of burning houses, and the tale was told by one of the inhabitants, who only escaped by a kind of miracle. His testimony was sifted before it was given to me, and may be verified or contradicted by our English Embassy at Constantinople. The names of several schoolmistresses are given who, in company with numerous girls, were many times subjected to the direst humiliation and then slain, and the Turkish inhabitants, who had remained submissive and protected during the Russian occupation, threw off their smooth, gentlemanlike exterior, took hatchets and knives in their hands, and only rested when they were weary of slaughtering those under whose governing care they had lived in safety. It is needless to say that all who could flee from Kezanlik have done so. At Kabrova there are, or were lately, some thousand starving fugitives. At Lovatz the massacres were less startling; but Selvi, which is now held and fortified by Prince Mirski, was filled with a crowd of poor creatures who had thrilling tales to tell. An eye-witness of the entry of the Russians described to me how the troops marched in, singing, as is their wont, between lanes of famine-stricken Bulgarians, among whom were to be seen many grown men, eyeing with despair the misery of the weak ones whom they had been unable to protect.

THE SESSION OF 1877.

PARLIAMENT was prorogued yesterday, and the session of 1877 is at an end. It is impossible to review its six months' proceedings with pride or complacency. The bill of fare presented by Ministers in the Speech from the Throne was meagre enough; but even its modest promises have not been fulfilled. Owing rather to the unexpected turn of events than to the mismanagement of the Government, the legislation of the session has been a failure. It has resulted in the passing of the Universities Bill, somewhat modified in a liberal sense, with decided indications that Parliament would have no objection for the commissioners to make those institutions broader and more national; in the adoption of the Prisons Bill, spite of the opposition of country members, and the obstructions of Home Rulers; and in the final acceptance of the South Africa Bill, and the measure for assimilating the Supreme Judicature of Ireland to those of England and Scotland. Many bills, though not of first-rate importance, were withdrawn, owing to the unprecedented action taken by Messrs. Biggar, Parnell, and their coadjutors. The interest of the session has been associated mainly with questions which did not assume a legislative shape, and in this view it has not been unproductive of important results.

Earlier in the year, commencing with the Address, there were important debates on the Eastern policy of this country. Although the necessity of a rigid neutrality met with little favour from a majority of the House of Commons, or even of the Liberal leaders, it was in the end substantially accepted as inevitable. This result was in a great degree owing to the interesting discussion on Mr. Gladstone's famous resolutions. The right hon. gentleman's motion was not, indeed, a Parliamentary success, but the masterly speeches of himself and his supporters showed clearly enough that England would never again come to the rescue of the Ottoman Empire. Ministers have, in fact, adopted the Eastern policy of the Opposition, though they have suggested a hypothetical case of intervention which is not likely to arise. The country at large does not see that there are any "British interests" involved in the Russo-Turkish war, of such distinctness and magnitude as will require us to take sides. This is so generally understood, and the influence of our anti-Russian newspapers is so limited, that the Government, though with much vacillation, accept the inevitable, and so strong a foe of Turkish misgovernment as Mr. Forster ventures upon the serious prediction that the Beaconsfield Cabinet is not likely to depart from its present attitude of rigid neutrality during the recess. For the many months while

Parliament is in abeyance, the influence of the distrusted Prime Minister will be augmented, but his lordship well knows that a word from Mr. Gladstone and his Liberal colleagues, if any exigency should arise, would suffice to rouse the country, and make the intervention of the British Government impossible. This satisfactory state of feeling is greatly owing to the debates early in the session, which may have terminated in weak divisions, but have thoroughly instructed the people as to the real merits of the conflict now being waged in Bulgaria.

Some months ago a knot of Irish fanatics discovered that it was possible to interrupt the business of the Imperial Parliament, without detriment to themselves, and with the notable object of so worrying the House of Commons that it would be glad to concede that Home Rule for which they sigh, but have not yet defined. These tactics were the less excusable inasmuch as Irish questions have occupied a full share of the session. Mr. Butt has been allowed a full debate on his special panacea for Irish woes, and was freely accorded the opportunity of discussing the Irish Land Laws, and of ventilating the scheme of the Roman Catholic hierarchy for creating a new sectarian University out of the surplus funds of the disestablished Church. These discussions were a tribute to the patience and fair dealing of the overwhelming majority in Parliament. They did not, however, in the least influence the action of Messrs. Biggar and Co., who proceeded to such extremes of obstruction as to call for authoritative intervention. It was not a crisis with which so amiable a statesman as Sir Stafford Northcote was qualified to deal. Sincerely jealous of the right of free discussion in Parliament, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the co-operation of Lord Hartington, proposed and carried two new rules for restraining the Irish fanatics, which proved to be ludicrously ineffectual. Their utter breakdown was made manifest during the memorable sitting of July 31, when for twenty-two hours the majority fought the Seven Obstructives with their own weapons, till they succumbed exhausted. The threat of more summary measures on the part of the Leader of the House—the Speaker having decided that systematic obstruction renders those who have recourse to it guilty of "contempt of Parliament"—obtained a respite during the remainder of the session. Mr. Butt has manfully, and without reserve, denounced the tactics of the Seven, and it is said that some thirty of the Irish Liberals are about to issue a formal protest against the proceedings of Messrs. Biggar and Parnell, who in their turn talk valiantly of holding monster meetings in Ireland to secure popular support for their policy. Perhaps the Obstructives are already "played out." At all events, the House of Commons will next session, doubtless assume a bolder front, and adopt a more adequate remedy.

The bill around which this agitation mainly revolved was one that could have no special interest for Irish members; and, in fact, Mr. Parnell confessed that he did not understand the scope of its provisions. Thus it happened that the South Africa Bill, which enables the several British provinces in that region voluntarily to unite in confederation, was not so fully discussed as it deserved to be. Recent events have amply vindicated the wisdom and safety of Lord Carnarvon's measure, which has now become an Act of Parliament. Years may possibly elapse before it is carried fully into effect. Its urgency has been diminished by the annexation of the Transvaal Republic to the British Empire—a bold step reversing our declared policy, but which, according to experienced colonial statesmen, has prevented a war of races in South Africa. We observe also that the policy of our Colonial Secretary at the Cape has been heartily endorsed by the veteran missionary, Dr. Moffat, who of all men should be able to form an unbiassed judgment on such a question.

The Government have not been happy this session in their legislation—or attempted legislation—in ecclesiastical matters. Their bill for a considerable increase of the Episcopate went into oblivion among the "innocents" sacrificed in consequence of the tactics of the Obstructives, and does not seem to have caused any regret in the Church. But between them, the Crown, the Government, and Parliament have created a Bishop of St. Albans. The Ministerial attempt to deal with the Burials Question had a quite unexpected termination. The leading provisions of the Duke of Richmond's bill will be familiar to our readers. They provoked a united and indignant protest from the whole body of Nonconformists—a protest so decided that Lord Granville felt emboldened to propose a resolution adverse to the spirit of the bill on the motion for its second reading. So large was the muster of Liberal peers, and so small the majority in favour of the Government, that the measure was postponed for several weeks, and the "silent burial" clause dropped out of it. In committee the Earl of Harrowby, with the approval of the Primate and the tacit sanction of the Archbishop of York, actually carried against the determined opposition of the Government, a clause permitting, under certain safeguards, burial services in the parish churchyards other than those of the Church of England. The majority of thirteen which defeated the Government, in the branch of the Legislature where it was supposed their will was supreme, was made up of deserters from the Conservative side. For awhile Ministers seemed undecided how they should act in reference to this significant defeat, but a hastily-got-up "no surrender" memorial from some 14,000 clergymen induced them to conciliate the parsons rather than the archbishops and the peers. The bill was thrown overboard. Government have promised to take up the question afresh next session. The lapse of time will not, however, remove the dilemma in which they are placed. The event has served to exhibit afresh the enormous political power wielded by our State-Church clergy, which even a strong Government holds in more dread than an adverse House of Lords.

The special circumstances of the times have prevented any definite consolidation of the Opposition in the House of Commons. During the session the Liberals have rarely been a united party, nor has there been much occasion for party conflicts. On the one absorbing question of the day, the Government have, in the main, accepted their views. It is rather in the Lords than in the Commons that the strength of the Liberal party has been exhibited. The most important question that arose between the two sides of the House was Mr. Trevelyan's motion in favour of an extension of the county franchise, which for the first time received the support of Lord Hartington, the Liberal leader, whose reputation for courage and discretion has risen greatly. This measure is likely, in spite of the hostility of Mr. Lowe and Mr. Goschen, to become the foremost article of the future Liberal programme. Mr. Trevelyan was defeated by a majority of fifty-eight, but as a general election approaches, his motion is likely to receive increased support. Domestic politics are for the time being overshadowed by a gigantic war, which may possibly last through another summer. Till peace is restored, and the Eastern Question has somewhat been solved, there is little prospect that reforms at home will excite general interest. But time is on the side of the supporters of Liberal principles, and we daresay, when occasion comes, it will be found that the constituencies are also in their favour.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

The report of the commissioners appointed by Mr. Cross to inquire into the discipline and management of Christ's Hospital is calculated to excite mingled feelings. It bears the stamp of honesty in examination and of judicial impartiality in its conclusions. The details of the evidence taken are not published, as in a case of this kind we think they ought to have been for the satisfaction of the public. But the summary given, as far as it goes, amply justifies the conclusion that for the miserable end of the boy Gibbs no person in particular can be blamed. He was not, it appears, cruelly or even severely punished. He was quite strong enough to take his own part in those rough-and-tumble contests of brute force, which are regarded by many as the highest educational influences at work in our great public schools. Several of his statements as to alleged ill-feeling against him are contradicted by trustworthy evidence; and, on the whole, his lamentable death seems fairly attributable to peculiarities of temper and constitution, amounting in an evil moment to what the coroner's jury have called "temporary insanity." It was also shown that in another painful case of attempted suicide, in which the sufferer happily recovered, there had been causes for mental depression, wholly apart from the discipline and management of the school.

So far the report must be received with satisfaction. But it continually happens that, though persons working under a particular system are not at all responsible for exceptionally unfortunate results, those results bring to light defects in the system that would otherwise have escaped attention. The commissioners hold that this is the case in the present instance. They do not blame the masters or other officers for what has happened. But they think that the system of discipline and management is very defective; and perhaps it may be hoped that the plainness of their language, and the facts by which they maintain their judgment, will at last overcome the obstinate sentimentalism of those who resist all reforms in Christ's Hospital. Some of the defects pointed out are peculiar to this institution. But others are common to our whole public school system, and should be seriously considered by educational reformers.

The special defects of the school are probably directly connected with its origin and with the primitive purpose from which the funds have been so remarkably diverted. It was intended as an orphanage and home for the destitute. It was to provide shelter, food, and clothing for the children of deceased, or of decayed and poverty-stricken citizens. The home was the first consideration. Instruction was an adjunct, though of course a necessary one. In this way perhaps it may be explained that the home life of the boys—if such it may be termed—has been under the direction of officials quite distinct from the instructors, and until quite recently, their superiors in authority. "At Christ's Hospital," said Mr. Fearon in 1868, "there is no headmaster." There was a staff of masters, one of whom, called the "upper grammar master," had a certain precedence. But there was no headmaster in the ordinary sense of that title, which usually involves a supremacy within the school boundaries, as complete and undisputed as that of a captain on board his own ship. The boys were under the authority of the masters only during school hours, and in their classes. Out of school the "Warden" was supreme, and he ruled by means of a staff of matron, beadles and nurses. Since the report of the Schools Enquiry Commission this system has been slightly, but only slightly, modified. There is now a head-master, and he is nominally superior to the warden. But their respective powers are not very clearly ascertained; and unless the warden were made distinctly subordinate, or, better still, abolished altogether, the evils of a double jurisdiction must remain. The masters have practically neither authority over, nor responsibility for, the playground, living rooms, or sleeping wards. All these are overlooked by beadles or nurses, the latter of whom look for support nominally to the "Grecians," or head boys of the school, but practically to the monitors, who are rarely more than fourteen years of age. The result is that such order as exists outside the classes, and especially in the dormitories, is maintained by a series of fights, in which the monitor has to rely on superior pugilistic prowess, or else by the rough handling of beadles, who may be kindly, but from early associations are naturally prejudiced in favour of the virtues of "a clout on the side of the head." The commissioners recommend that this double system be abolished. But they add, that through the absence of residences for masters it cannot be effectually abolished except by the removal of the school to some other locality. When that removal takes place, let us hope that the opportunity will be seized of bringing this great school into more just and legitimate relations with the new elementary school system of the nation.

It is in regard to the monitorial system that the report has a bearing on all public schools. It is a curious thing that while in board schools all monitors, pupil-teachers, and even assistant masters, are, as a rule, rigorously prohibited from striking a blow, in our great public schools for the higher classes, "tunding," caning, and slaps in the face, are regarded as indispensable for the maintenance of the smallest authority ever delegated to a sixth or fifth form boy. Here, in Christ's Hospital, the monitors of fourteen years of age "have no authorised power" to inflict corporeal punishment, yet the late head-master told the Commissioners that "such a punishment as a slap in the face" would not be considered beyond their authority. Let anyone who knows anything of boys consider what this means—the almost infinite varieties of force with which a "slap in the face" may be given, the wounds sometimes resulting, the danger to eye and ear and temple, where there is the slightest delicacy, the concussion, bewilderment, and irritation often produced—and he will surely acknowledge that a permission more destructive of dependence on moral superiority and more fatal to peaceful order could hardly be given. But it is quite of a piece with the brutal traditions that govern our public schools. It is indeed possible to maintain with some reason that corporeal punishment by a judicious and responsible authority is less cruel than some of the moral tortures and degradations sometimes substituted for it. But a system which encourages the whole hierarchy of a school to regard all discipline as summed up in a word and a blow stands condemned by its shameful incongruity with the civilisation of the age.

Literature.

MR. JOHN MORLEY ON COMPROMISE.*

We are glad to find that Mr. Morley's essay on Compromise obtained sufficient popularity to require a second edition. It is a work which, much as we may differ from parts of it, we cannot but desire should be widely circulated and deeply pondered by all who take an interest in the spread of truth and the progress of justice. Mr. Morley is one of the severest of contemporary critics of the doctrines of Christianity; he is an assailant of ecclesiastical institutions, as they at present exist, of the greatest power, because of his conspicuous sincerity and intelligence. For ourselves, believing as we do in the permanence of the spirit of Christ under ever varying intellectual and social forms, we rejoice that in this essay we have the respectful recognition of that spirit as an indispensable element of a progressive civilisation. In this case, we think, the words of Christ are clearly applicable: "He that is not against us is for us." We are quite of Mr. Morley's opinion that "Science, when she has accomplished all her triumphs in her own order, will still have to go back, when the time comes, to assist in the building up of a new creed by which men can live. The builders will have to seek material in the purified and sublimated ideas, of which the confessions and rites of the Christian Churches have been the grosser expression." We cannot re-open the discussion of the major proposition of this essay, though there may still remain much to be said as to the treatment that error, conscientiously believed to be true, and surrounded by many hallowed associations, would receive at the hands of those who discern its falsehood. But has not an answer, which somewhat modifies the reasoning of this volume, been practically given to it in the essay on the death of Mill? "Prejudices were to him (we are told) like physical predispositions, with which you have to make your account. He knew, too, that they are often bound up with the most valuable elements in character and life, and hence he feared that violent surgery, which in eradicating a false opinion, fatally bruises at the same time a true and wholesome feeling that may cling to it."

We must pass to the consideration of the second series of essays, which are now added in this permanent form to the best class of our critical literature. That class is, speaking comparatively, a small one; but so long as it contains the writings of Mr. Matthew Arnold and Mr. John Morley, it will remain one of the most distinguished. In the first essay in this volume, the following description is given of the literary style of the author of *L'Ancien Réyime*:—

> M. Taine has the quality of the best type of a man of letters; he has the fine critical aptitude for seizing the secret of an author's or an artist's manner, for penetrating to dominant and central ideas, for marking the abstract and general under accidental forms in which they are concealed, for connecting the achievements of literature and art which facts of society and impulses of human character and life. He is the master of a style which, if it seems to lack the breadth, the firmness, the sustained and level strength of great writing, is yet always energetic, fresh, and alive with that spontaneous reality and independence of interest which distinguishes the genuine writer from the mere weaver of sentences and the servile mechanic of the pen.

This is high praise; and it appeared to us on reading it, that were its modification omitted, it would aptly describe the chief characteristics of Mr. Morley's critical insight and his manner of expression. These qualities of intellectual clearness, of perfect sincerity, of fidelity to truth, and of sympathy with all honest efforts at social and political reform, united with strong and harmonious speech, render his writings a source of unalloyed pleasure. But there is more in them than this. There is an element which is often called prophetic in its character—that faculty, partly poetic, partly analytic, which seizes upon the significance of an event in the past, and shows its bearing upon the present and its probable influence upon the future. It is for this that we chiefly value the writings of Mr. Morley. His monograph upon Voltaire was richly endowed with these features; nor do we know anything in this volume that can be compared with a few passages in it. But in many parts are apparent the qualifications which will cause him to be regarded as the first historical and political writer who has estimated the causes and traced the consequences of the French Revolution, and has at the same time done justice to the principal actors in that scene of the drama of human history. We are not unmindful of the services of Mr. Carlyle in this direction. There is a passage on page 21 of this volume which we commend to the notice of the impatient critics of French politics, who think that France has made no progress since 1792; and that the Revolution was a mistake, because it was not a constitutional act. Besides the "Essay upon France" in the eighteenth century *apropos* of M. Taine, the volume contains two others upon French characters, M. Turgot, and Robespierre. We notice further, with pleasurable expectation, that the papers on "Diderot" are to be collected from the *Fortnightly Review*, and published in a separate volume.

We have read again with undiminished pleasure Mr. Morley's three papers on Mr. J. S. Mill—his Death, Autobiography, and Religion. They are an instructive guide to the views of the critic, as well as to those of his friend and teacher—Mr. Mill. Fullest justice is done to the dominant purpose of Mr. Mill, which was not to be a mere thinker, but a practical social and political reformer. Mr. Morley says:—

> One of his most remarkable characteristics was less English than French; his constant admission of an ideal and imaginative element in social speculation, and a glowing persuasion that the wisdom and ingenuity of men are capable, if free opportunity be given by social arrangements, of raising human destiny to a pitch that is at present beyond our powers of conception. . . . Its force (of this type of character) lies not in single elements, but in that combination of an ardent interest in human improvement with a reasoned attention to the law of its conditions, which alone deserves to be honoured with the high name of wisdom. . . . He could hope for the future without taking his eye from the realities of the present. He recognised the social destination of knowledge, and kept the elevation of the great art of social existence ever before him, as the ultimate end of all speculative activity.

Under the guidance of the same passion for social reform, Mr. Mill undertook to expose what he believed to be the groundlessness of Sir W. Hamilton's philosophy, not as a merely intellectual feat, but because, in his opinion, it hindered the religious and social liberty of the nation. In his own words:—"The whole of the prevalent metaphysics of the present century is one tissue of suborned evidence in favour of religion." Thus, says Mr. Morley, "we see that even where the distance between the object of his inquiry and the practical well-being of mankind seemed farthest, and the doing a real service to philosophy only occurred to him in connection with a still greater and more real service to those social causes for which, and which only, philosophy is worth cultivating, in the *System of Logic* the inspiration had been the same." Doubtless many of our readers think that, in acting as he did, Mr. Mill was pulling up much good wheat with the tares, or, perhaps, sowing philosophical tares in its place; but in forming an estimate of Mr. Mill as a public man this fact should not be forgotten, and the irrelevant taunt that he was a mere theorist should cease. There are many interesting aspects of Mill's opinions on which we might dwell with some profit, and to which it might be well to direct the attention of our theological readers; but we prefer to add emphasis to this, which Mr. Morley has been, so far as we know, the first to notice. The middle-class of this country, with a few exceptions, are incapable of conceiving of even the possibility of such a social change as that towards which Mill directed all his energies. Many of the most cultivated men of the present day occupying Mill's philosophical positions would smile with a polite weariness at his hopes for the future of humanity. The readers of the *Nonconformist*, who are united by the common desire and effort to produce one of the greatest social changes England has known since the extinction of feudalism, ought not to despise Mill's end, even if they differ from his methods. But we cannot venture to believe that a majority of Christians in any denomination have sufficient faith in the prophecies of the Old Testament or the spirit of the New to expect that a period will come when, by the modifications of external conditions, a marked change will take place in the disposition and mind of humanity. Without taking note of the well-to-do selfish, and indifferent, or the stolidly ignorant and wretchedly hopeless, there are thousands of tolerably educated and earnestly-benevolent persons, of whom the late Lord Macaulay may be taken as the type, and who may be described in the words of Mr. Morley in the last essay of this volume: "His unanalytical turn of mind kept him free of any temptation to think of love or country as a prejudice, or a passion for freedom as an illusion. The cosmopolitan or international idea which such teachers as Cobden have tried to impress on our stubborn islanders, would have found in Macaulay not lukewarm or sceptical adherence, but point-blank opposition and denial." It is this "cosmopolitan or international" idea that will prove, if we do not mistake, the most fertile in producing the new social forces which will diminish war, promote free trade, and tend to the moral elevation of the lowest classes in society. This idea is an essentially Christian idea; and its diffusion is ensured by its truth, and by the fact that it has become one of the dominant ideas of the most influential, social, and political philosophy of our age.

The stirring address on popular culture delivered last year by Mr. Morley before the Midland Institute at Birmingham, has been so recently in the public prints, that we need do no more than mention it as a part of this volume.

* *On Compromise.* By JOHN MORLEY. Second Edition, revised. *Critical Miscellanies.* Second Series. By JOHN MORLEY. (London: Chapman and Hall.)

LORD LORNE'S TRANSLATION OF THE PSALMS.*

The Marquis of Lorne has made a bold venture. Anything that has become familiar to the ear and mind of those for whom it was composed may have many faults, but it is not easy to supersede it. We see this in the rugged old border ballads of Scotland, and in many of the older national songs. It is the case, too, with the Scottish Psalms and Paraphrases, not a few of which are without form—prose cut into certain lengths, and, truth to say, the lengths are not very exactly measured in some cases. But, exact or no, they have been sung for generations, and have been found adequate for music and for edification—their one great purpose beyond all art. Our readers will remember how Emerson speaks of human compositions being toned by use till they are mellowed in the minds of their users. Taste may thus very often be in conflict with spiritual fervour, so that even were the innovation perfect in point of *taste*, it might have a hard fight for acceptance. There are two points to bear in mind, therefore, in reviewing such a book as this:—the popular purpose and the scientific one. Many have given their own readings of the Psalms, and come closer to the original in separate instances than former versions, but their purpose was mainly scientific or informational. Lord Lorne's purpose is *popular*, for he dedicates his book to the Scottish churches, and says he aims at perfecting rhymes, and so on. We have therefore an easy test for his work—it is the ordinary one of claim upon the ear and heart. Tried by this test, his lordship's work must be pronounced an absolute failure from first to last. Criticism of details would be endless, and indeed exhaustiveness is not necessary. A few testing points will at once occur to anyone. A few of the Scottish Psalms are doggerel; the worst of them are only a degree below Lord Lorne's best. Take the Twenty-third Psalm, and read:—

> The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
> He makes me down to lie
> In pastures green; he leadeth me
> The quiet waters by.
>
> My soul he doth restore again:
> And me to walk doth make
> Within the paths of righteousness
> Ev'n for His own name's sake,
>
> Yea, though I walk in Death's dark vale,
> Yet will I fear none ill;
> For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
> And staff me comfort still.

And this is Lord Lorne's improved version, with inversion and almost every conceivable fault:—

> My Shepherd is the Lord, and I
> Shall never want or [? nor] fear;
> To streams of comfort *He me leads,*
> By quiet waters *clear.*
>
> He makes me lie in pastures green,
> My soul He doth restore;
> For His name's sake, in righteous paths
> He leads me evermore.
>
> Yea, *though I travel through* the vale
> That death's dark shadows fill,
> No evil will I ever fear,
> For Thou art with me still."

Only another testing passage shall we take. It is the Eighth Psalm. This is the Scottish Version:—

> How excellent in all the earth,
> Lord, our Lord, is Thy name!
> Who hast Thy glory far advanced
> Above the starry frame.
>
> From infants' and from sucklings' mouth,
> Thou didest strength ordain,
> For Thy foe's cause, that so Thou mights't
> The avenging foe restrain.

And then read this:—

> Lord, our Lord, throughout creation
> All exceeding reigns Thy Name;
> Thou, who Thine eternal glory
> Sett'st above the heavenly frame.
> Strength from children, sucklings *even,*
> 'Gainst the foe dost Thou ordain,
> That the hater and avenger
> Crushed and silent shall remain.

* *The Book of Psalms.* Literally Rendered in Verse. By the Marquis of LORNE. (London: Macmillan and Co.)

When upon Thine heavens gazing
Work Thy fingers wrought alone;
On the moon and stars amazing,
All ordained by Thee and known;
What is man that Thou art ever
Mindful of him; and his seed,
What is he, that failing never,
Thou dost visit him at need?

"Fraud" and "abroad" are not rhymes; "way" and "away" are really identical words; and these are but two out of scores of similar cases in Lord Lorne's versions in spite of his claims, in the Preface, to have got *true* rhymes.

We wish we could have given a more favourable verdict. What strikes us with wonder is that his lordship's advisers, among whom is a distinguished Scottish preacher, the Rev. James McGregor, D.D., did not play the candid friend with somewhat more of effect, and have thus aided in maintaining for the Marquis the little reputation he had already won as a poet. This book will assuredly spoil it, in spite of his high social position.

*PRINCE HENRY OF PORTUGAL.**

No work belonging to the history of geographical discovery that we can remember, has equalled that which Mr. Major has given to us in his memoirs of "Prince Henry the Navigator." We quite agree with him that it is surprising that no Englishman had, until a few years ago, attempted to prepare a monograph of this remarkable man. To him, as is truly said, "we are primarily indebted for our knowledge of more than half of the world." His geographical instinct was greater probably than that ever possessed by any other man. And his character was equal to his genius. Bravery was common to his race—but he was pure when it was the fashion to be impure; he was learned when learning amongst noblemen was certainly not esteemed; he was devout beyond the ordinary devotion even of saintly women; and, with all, he was ever projecting new enterprises, while the sun when it rose as when it set found him steadily at work.

Mr. Major, in this most complete and romantic of biographies, tells us, first, of the ignorance of men respecting the globe which they inhabited, and the great idea of the princely navigator. "Until his day," he says, "the pathways of the human race had been the mountain, the river, and the plain, the strait, the lake, and inland sea; but he it was who first conceived the thought of opening a road through the unexplored ocean, a road replete with danger but abundant in promise. . . To find the sea-path to the 'Thesauris Arabum et divitis Indiæ,' till then known only through faint echoes of almost forgotten tradition, was the object to which Prince Henry devoted his life." The genius in this resolute purpose is well indicated in the following paragraph:—

To be duly appreciated, this comprehensive thought must be viewed in relation to the period in which it was conceived. "The last of the dark ages," the fifteenth century has been rightly named, but the light which displaced its obscurity had not yet begun to dawn when Prince Henry, with prophetic instinct, traced mentally a pathway to India by an anticipated Cape of Good Hope. No printing-press as yet gave forth to the world the accumulated wisdom and experience of the past. The compass, though known and in use, had not yet emboldened men to leave the shore and put out with confidence into the open sea; no sea-chart existed to guide the mariner along those perilous African coasts; no lighthouse reared its friendly head to warn or welcome him on his homeward track. The scientific and practical appliances which were to render possible the discovery of half a world had yet to be developed. But, with such objects in view, the Prince collected the information supplied by ancient geographers, unweariedly devoted himself to the study of mathematics, navigation, and cartography, and freely invited, with princely liberality of reward, the co-operation of the boldest and most skilful navigators of every country.

We look back with astonishment and admiration at the stupendous achievement effected a whole life-time later by the immortal Columbus, an achievement which formed the connecting link between the Old World and the New; yet the explorations instituted by Prince Henry of Portugal were in truth the anvil upon which that link was forged; and yet how many are there in England, the land of sailors, who even know the name of the illustrious man who was the very initiator of continuous Atlantic exploration?

We of England have reason to be proud of this man. The son of John the First, he was also the son of Queen Philippa, daughter of John of Gaunt, grandson therefore of the great duke, and great-grandson of Edward III. He was born in 1392. Grown to manhood, he soon acquired military fame, and was therefore entrusted with responsible commands, especially against the Moors. After the great battle of Ceuta, Mr. Major tells us, his renown became so great that "he was invited severally by the Pope, the Emperor of Germany, and the Kings of Castile and England to undertake the command of their respective armies." His attention, however, was directed towards the East, his object being "the conquest and conversion of the heathen," and the extension of knowledge and commerce. No doubt the first was his great object. Though not a priest he was a sacerdotalist, and rejoiced in every poor ignorant heathen who was baptized. It might almost indeed be said that the extension of the ordinance of baptism was his hobby, but that the devoutness of his character and the greatness of his whole work compels one to withhold all ridicule even of his weaknesses. Of course, or almost of course, his first expeditions, begun in 1415, were fruitless, and it would seem that their very barren result brought down upon the Prince some not unnatural obloquy. But in 1418-20 his agents, coasting along Guinea, were driven out to sea, and discovered Porto Santo and Madeira. Madeira, in accordance with the Prince's policy, was at once colonised. Mr. Major details the particulars of Machin's previous discovery of this island, but this discovery had been a barren one. It was recognised, however, by the Portuguese, who named "Machico," from the first discoverer. After this, year after year, vessels were sent by Prince Henry to follow the line of the West Coast of Africa, offering high rewards for any newly-discovered land. In 1435 Cape Bojador was passed, and what is now called Gurnard Bay reached. Here signs of human habitation were found. This was a sufficient stimulus, and it was resolved to send an expedition still farther. We need not recapitulate the different discoveries that followed. All along the coast the Portuguese named every place, and these names testify, to this day, to the great extent of their discoveries. Islands, here and there, were also found—amongst them the Canaries and the Azores. Then Cadamosto, the Venetian, following Prince Henry's desires, reached the Senegal, and went on to Budomel, where remarkable discoveries of people were made. Then came the Gambia and the Cape Verde islands, and the Rio Grande. Gomez, instructed by the Prince, went still farther, finding, as did the other navigators, new people and new merchandise. The Prince was still as full as ever of his enterprise, when, in 1460, the hand of death seized him. What a reputation he left! "His only fear," said one of his own countrymen, "was the fear of committing sin," and well he added, "I know not where to look for a prince that shall bear comparison with this one." Mr. Major says:—

Such was the exalted character of the man whom we honour as the *originator of continuous modern discovery*. In the prefatory chapter to this work, where the Prince's purpose was spoken of, a passing allusion was made to his dignity as the son of a king, and there was an especial object in the mention of that reality. All modern discovery found its origin in one great event—the rise of the powers which bordered on the Atlantic; and this rise, although slow, was identical with the strengthening of the respective monarchies. At the close of the middle ages, the kings were, in all these countries, the real centres of their nations, whilst in the "Roman Empire" many contending claims existed, but no general government. This difference had long been in favour of the East as far as commerce and navigation was concerned. But now the balance began to turn to the other side. The Hanseatic confederacy, powerful as it might be, was but a confederacy; and Venice, however magnificent, was but a city. The really modern states of Western Europe had the germs of quite another force and power within them.

The first discoveries of the Portuguese were originated by that exuberant regal power which was free to leave the paternal realms, and to extend itself beyond the Mediterranean in wars against the infidels. This movement also received a new intensity by the emigration of the able seamen of Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands to the rising States along the Atlantic. Under the liberal inducements of Prince Henry, men of these three nations held prominent positions in the early naval exploits of the Portuguese. But not Portugal only rose by their talents: the newly united kingdoms of Castile and Aragon, England, and France received with avidity the offers of service of the most gifted men of these nations which had held the sway of the sea.

Mr. Major is right in continuing the history of geographical discovery after the death of the great Prince, and in attributing its results to him. Thus he tells of the expedition of Gomez and of the crossing in 1471, "for the first time within the memory or even the knowledge of man, the equinoctial line from north to south." His narrative contains one remarkable statement concerning the African lakes and the sources of the Nile:—

In the course of a century from this time, the Portuguese having become well established in Congo, we find one of their countrymen, Duarte Lopes, going on a mission from the King of Congo to Pope Sixtus V., and Philip II., King of Spain and Portugal, for the purpose of representing the deplorable condition of Christianity in the country at that time and begging for missionaries. In Rome Lopes recounted by command of the Pope to Felipe Pigafetta, His Holiness' chamberlain, all that he had learned from his countrymen during the nine years he had been in Africa (1578-87), and this narrative, under the title of "Description of the kingdom of Congo," was published by Pigafetta at Rome, in 1591, 4to. In this rare work is a map, of which is a reduction annexed, showing that the two great equatorial lakes, Victoria Nyanza and Albert Nyanza, with their southern feeder, Lake Tanganyika, the positive existance of which has only been made known to us in recent years by our noble explorers, Burton, Speke and Grant, Sir Samuel Baker, &c., were actually laid down and described from information gathered in Africa by a Portuguese three hundred years ago. But though so laid down and described, these three great facts, of such vital importance to the question of the discovery of the sources of the Nile, slept and remained unrepeated by geographers during all those centuries, until our brave adventurers unfolded the truth from absolute personal observation.

The single fact of the map exhibiting, as none of its predecessors or successors had done, these three important lakes so recently discovered, would be sufficient to justify us in hoping for enlightenment on points which have not yet been established by satisfactory modern observation, and, in fact, vague and strange as its delineation will appear to eyes accustomed to more systematic cartography, it does contain several other items of information which have been wanting in subsequent maps, until they had become matters of fact substantiated by recent explorations.

On it is laid down for the first time the great empire of Monomoezi, or Uniamuezi, occupying in a remarkably striking manner a position between the easternmost of the two equatorial lakes and another vast lake to the south-west, exactly corresponding with the true position of that country between the Victoria Nyanza and Lake Tanganyika. In the north-east is the Lago Barcena corresponding with Lake Dembea, with an affluent of the White Nile issuing from it—a fact by no means unworthy of notice, even though the indistinctness of the delineation leaves us in doubt whether the Atbara or Bar-el-Azreh may be intended: moreover, the name of Barsena still survives in another affluent of the White Nile. Nor is it without significance that north-westward of the Lake Colue, which answers to the Victoria Nyanza, there occurs the word Barimboa, closely expressing Baringo, the name of the water north west of that great lake.

Let us allow Mr. Major to tell in his own words again of the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope by Dias:—

When the wind abated, Dias, not doubting that the coast still ran north and south, as it had done hitherto, steered in an easterly direction with the view of striking it, but finding that no land made its appearance, he altered his course for the north, and came upon a bay where there were a number of cowherds tending their kine, who were greatly alarmed at the sight of the Portuguese, and drove their cattle inland. Dias gave the bay the name of Angra dos Vaqueiros, or the Bay of Cowherds. It is the present Flesh Bay, near Gauritz River. He had rounded the Cape without knowing it.

It is a fact specially worthy of notice that in this voyage an entirely different system was adopted with respect to the natives than had prevailed hitherto. Instead of capturing the negroes that they had chanced to find on the coast, they had orders to leave on the shore at intervals negroes and negresses well dressed and well affected towards Portugal, to gather information respecting Prester John, to speak in praise of the Portuguese from experience of kindnesses received, and to infuse a desire to contract alliances with them. In accordance with these instructions two negroes had been restored at Angra do Salto (the Bay of the Capture), so called from Diogo Cam having captured them at this place. They had left also a negress at Angra dos Ilheos (Angra Pequena), and another at Angra das Voltas. An unfortunate event, however, occurred which neutralised the fact of this well-intended plan. In proceeding eastward from Flesh Bay, Diaz reached another bay, to which he gave the name of San Bras, where he put in to take water. In doing this, he met with determined opposition from the natives, who threw stones at his men. They were thus compelled to resort to their own weapons in self-defence, and an unfortunate shot from an arblast struck one of the Caffres dead, and thus the favourable impressions which had been looked for from a pacific system of procedure were nullified by an act of violence which they would gladly have avoided. Continuing east, Dias reached a small island in Algoa Bay, on which he set up another pillar with its cross, and the name of Santa Cruz, which he gave to the rock, still survives; and as they found two springs in it, many called it the Penedo das Fontes. This was the first land beyond the Cape which was trodden by European feet, and here they set on shore another negress.

The crews now began to complain, for they were worn out with fatigue, and alarmed at the heavy seas through which they were passing. With one voice they protested against proceeding farther. Dias, however, was most anxious to prosecute the voyage. By way of compromise he proposed that they should sail on in the same direction for two or three days, and if they then found no reason for proceeding farther, he promised they should return. This was acceded to. At the end of that time they reached a river some twenty-five leagues beyond the island of Santa Cruz, and as Joao Infante, the captain of the second ship, the S. Pantaleon, was the first to land, they called the river the Rio do Infante. It was the river now known as the Great Fish River.

Here the remonstrances and complaints of the crew compelled Dias to turn back When he reached the little island of Santa Cruz, and bade farewell to the cross which he had there erected, it was with grief as intense as if he were leaving his child in the wilderness with no hope of ever seeing him again. The recollection of all the dangers that he and his men had gone through in that long voyage, and the reflection that they were to terminate thus fruitlessly, caused him the keenest sorrow. He was, in fact, unconscious of what he had accomplished. But his eyes were soon to be opened. As he sailed onwards to the west of Santa Cruz he at length came in sight of that remarkable cape which had been hidden from the eyes of man for so many centuries. In remembrance of the perils they had encountered in passing that tempestuous point, he gave to it the name of Cabo Tormentoso, or Stormy Cape, but when he reached Portugal and made his report to Joao II., the king, foreseeing the realisation of the long-coveted passage to India, gave it the enduring name of Cape of Good Hope.

The one grand discovery which had been the object of Prince Henry's unceasing desire was now effected.

* *The Discoveries of Prince Henry the Navigator, &c.* By Richard Henry Major, F.S.A. (Sampson Low and Co.)

Of Columbus, of the Magalhaens, and others who carried on this brave work, space forbids us to tell. The reader will find much that is new about them in Mr. Major's pages, and every page he will find to be interesting.

TWO AMERICAN REVIEWS.

The *North American Review* for July fully maintains its high standard. Passing by a very able article on the "Electoral Conspiracy," by Judge J. S. Black, as having less of special value for England than for America, and General McClellan's article on the "War in the East," in which he judiciously calls on both those who dread and those who desire the growth of Russian influence to remember that "the Russia of the future will be a very different nation from the Russia of the past or of to-day," we come on a very able and discriminating tribute to "Fitzgreene Halleck," from the pen of Bayard Taylor, *apropos* of the unveiling of the statue to that writer in the Central Park of New York, on the 15th of May. Halleck was a poet, genuine so far, but quiet, and unpretentious. Like Scott he was a "healthy man," and never attempted to express anything higher than he had honestly felt. Mr. Taylor claims for Halleck, and not unjustly, that he was for a short time the representative of the poetry as Irving was of the prose of America; and both were the prophecies of their later brethren. "If Halleck attained an easier fame than would be possible to like achievement now, we must not forget that it was through rising so much higher than those before and beside him." Following this is an elaborate article in continuation on the "American Constitution," by Senator Moreton; and, that read, we come to the gem of the number—"Moral Reflections of a Japanese Traveller"; being in some sort a supplement to the "Political Reflections" in the former number, which created so much remark and curiosity as to the authorship. It is full of satire, which is heightened by the quaint simplicity of the style, with its tendency to lapse into broken English. The writer remarks on the "brotherliness" of religious newspapers, on the indifference of clergymen to the ways in which their members make their money, and the style in which he suggests that each minister should categorically put the question to each candidate for membership—"Are you in any Rings?" are full of delicious sarcasm; and when he comes to confess that though Bible-teaching is higher than the teaching of Confucius, yet that Japanese are nearer to Confucius in practice than Christians are to Christ, he lands his reader in a dilemma which, if he is really an earnest Christian, will not be lacking in suggestiveness.

> In England (says the Japanese traveller) nobles and bishops sell clergymen and churches in quite a complicated and curious kind of way, very difficult to understand properly, though I studied it thoroughly, and I will explain it afterwards in my Japanese book fully. I think that will surprise Buddhist priests more than anything I have seen in Western civilisation. Never would Buddhist priest allow himself and his temple to be sold, even by most high and powerful Daimio—sooner he would die. Indeed, priests in my country do not try to become rich. However, I am not Buddhist myself; only for many things I respect them. I think priests in all religion should not care at all about money. In Bible also it says so. Indeed, Bible is strongly-opposed to all money-making for any kind of people. I think one of great beauties in Christian teaching is constant attack upon rich people and love of money. It says "love of money root of all evil," "haste not to be rich." Their money-changers were scourged out of the temple for buying and selling inside, and rich young man was told he must give up all he had and give to the poor: indeed that teaching is most beautiful. When I first read all that, certainly, I thought, I must become Christian. Even now I believe thoroughly all this teaching, but to practise it I must go back to Japan. There a man could still live in daily life this teaching, here it would not be possible. Certainly he would starve immediately.

"New Russia" follows—a review of Mr. Mackenzie Wallace's book by one who knows Russia; and "Reformed Judaism," an able article by a Jew, with the usual enlightened criticisms of new books, makes up the number.

The *International Review* is very readable. An article on the "Turks in Europe" is packed full of facts, and fresh, in spite of the libraries recently written on that subject. This is followed by a very well-presented argument that Russia ought not to prevail—that her policy is aggrandisement, that she has scarcely made the progress Turkey has in the last twenty-five years, and that no dependence can be put in her. We do not agree with the writer, but he has made good use of all the facts that would serve his purpose; reminding us, of course, that the Turkish Government has *promised* reform of the Principalities; but that Russia has not done so in respect to Poland; and that if one Government has the right to ask another for guarantees for the humane treatment of its subjects, then the Powers ought to demand from Russia such guarantees for the Roman Catholics and the Unitarian Greeks. "Old Dutch and Flemish Artists" is a piece of sensitive and discriminating criticism by Mr. Hamerton, based on the recent work of Eugène Fromentin—"Les Maîtres d'Autrefois: Belgique et Hollande." The second article, "The Late World's Fair," views the Philadelphia Exhibition in nine of its social and scientific aspects. "Barry Cornwall and some of his Contemporaries" are incisively and characteristically treated by Mr. Edwin Whipple—a critic of uncommon penetration and delicacy. Particularly do we notice that he does justice to De Quincey. The most notable things in the other number are a short sketch of Mr. Ruskin's later revelations in *Fors Clavigera*, a faithful and searching little notice of Miss Martineau's Autobiography, and the usual *résumé* of American and English books. On the whole, these two reviews continue favourably to illustrate the culture and literary productiveness of American genius.

THE MAGAZINES—AUGUST.

(Second Notice.)

The *Sunday at Home* begins with a new tale by Miss Alcock, "The King of Hungary's Blacksmith," and very good it is. New, also, is Mr. Lansdell's "Tour to Hafaranda," and very good, as usual, are the pages for the young. Dr. Porter's "Recent Journey East of the Jordan," is an article by one of the greatest of Palestine explorers.

The *Leisure Hour* has a continuation of the effective tale of "His only Enemy," and one or two especially good local articles, in which the *Leisure Hour* often excels. Of these, this month, there are "Plymouth and the British Association," Dr. Stoughton's "Recent Memorials in Westminster Abbey," "Old Mayors of Plymouth," and "Yorkshire Abbeys." "Sick Children's Hospitals" should be read by those who find, as we all do at one time or another in life, that the sympathies are getting deadened. Happy the man who gets to know this, and who also knows how to revive them!

In the *Sunday Magazine* the tale is continued, but there are three articles which will be read, we think, with peculiar pleasure. One is Dr. Macmillan's "Mountain Springs," written with characteristic grace and beauty; and the second Mr. Tipple's "God's Gift of Summer," with its terse thought and delicious expression; and the third the "Riverside Visitor's Experience." These three papers would distinguish any magazine.

In the *Day of Rest* we find another paper—or rather sermonette—from the pen of Dr. Hugh Macmillan—the "Homesick Hill"—still dealing with the aspects of Christianity which Dr. Macmillan so lovingly and carefully reads. Here, also, Mr. Proctor gives us another of the "Sunday Reveries of an Astronomer." Dr. Pertwee's "Poor Patients" is, as it has been, admirable, and most of the other contents are above the average.

Readers of *Good Things* will, of course, first turn to Jules Verne's wonderful tale in which that rather original author has quite surpassed himself in the marvels of invention; or, perhaps, we should say, the invention of the marvellous. The "Herring Cure" is a well-written description, and David Ker gives us two papers—his tales being, of course, well and effectively told, for Mr. Ker, what. ever faults he may have, has always been one of the most dramatic of story-tellers.

Golden Hours has some good writing, amongst which, although we are not amongst the admirers of Mr. Tupper, we have another chapter of his "America Revisited," very pleasantly written. "Clarice Duncan" is a tale above the average, and "My Boarding-House Experiences" very good, especially in the character of observation of detail. ——The *Christian Treasury* is full of religious literature. Note especially here Dr. Fairbairn's "Jesus Lifted up," and the late Edward Irving's "Traditions of the Times of the Martyrs."——The *Fireside* has a good deal of variety. The best article this month is another of Mr. Bardsley's on the "Romance of the London Directory." No one need to be told that the same author has also written a novel in which some of this kind of lore is very effectively exhibited.

Science Gossip is full of original matter. We like the idea here of local writing—as we have said about another magazine. Both the "Geology of Plymouth," and "Botanical Notes of Cader Idris" are full of information.——The *Animal World* always has our sympathy and our admiration.——The *Poet's Magazine* is scarcely better than usual, and therefore we can say little of it.

The *Congregationalist* is distinguished by an admirable notice of "John Angell James," by Mr. Dale, and an equally admirable and vigorous article on the "Priests and the Nation." It was said, a short time ago, that the *Congregationalist* "did not pay." It would be a disgrace to more than one denomination if this should be repeated. ——The *Evangelical Magazine* has, amongst its contents, a good portrait of Dr. Edmond, and an effective piece of religious poetry by Mr. Baldwin Brown, which should be read more than once, and which read often will lay hold of both heart and conscience.

Frank Leslie's Sunday Magazine has a remarkable variety of contents, but some of it is clearly copied, although we cannot, in every instance, say from where. But why should not the acknowledgment be made? This magazine would, even with such an acknowledgment, still be the cheapest Sunday magazine published, supposing, that is to say, that it is published in England at the same price as in New York.

We have also received *Myra's Journal*, best of journals of fashion; the *Scottish Congregationalist*; the *General Baptist* (vigorous and varied as usual); the *Chronicle of the London Missionary Society*, which we hope to see equal, one of these days to a certain Church missionary periodical; the *Day of Days*; and, last of all, that sixpenny worth of all sixpenny worths, the *Gardener's Magazine*.

Epitome of News.

Her Majesty, with Princess Beatrice, was present on Thursday at the annual games of the Whippingham school children, at Whippingham rectory.

On Saturday evening the Queen paid a visit to the Thunderer, four, turret-ship, Captain J. C. Wilson, which was lying off Osborne. On Monday the Prince of Wales went out in the ship to witness some target practice off the east end of the Isle of Wight.

The *Medical Examiner* reports that Prince Albert Victor is now convalescent, the fever having run its course and the temperature subsided. The drainage of Marlborough House is to be entirely reorganised.

The Prince of Wales's sons, Prince Edward and Prince George, are to join Her Majesty's ship Britannia, at Dartmouth, as naval cadets, early in September.

The Duke of Edinburgh's birthday (August 6) was celebrated, with all the honours, on board the Sultan, of which His Royal Highness is the captain. The united bands of the fleet gave a grand concert, in which the Duke played a violin solo.

Lord Derby, after the prorogation of Parliament, will reside either at Keston or Fairhill, near Tunbridge Wells, for some time before going to Knowsley.

The Hon. Frederick Arthur Stanley, M.P., Financial Secretary to the War Department, will succeed Mr. W. H. Smith as Financial Secretary to the Treasury. As the office is not technically under the Crown, Mr. Stanley's appointment does not vacate his seat for North Lancashire.

The nomination for Westminster, consequent upon the acceptance by Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., of the office of First Lord of the Admiralty, took place on Saturday. There being no opposition, Mr. Smith was re-elected, and in the course of the afternoon he entered the House of Commons, and took the oaths and his seat. Subsequently Mr. Smith addressed a meeting at the Westminster Palace Hotel.

The Right Hon. W. E. Forster and Mrs. Forster have left town for Teplitz, in Bohemia.

Mr. Lowe, M.P., has, it is stated, declined to be put in nomination in the Liberal interest for the Lord Rectorship of Edinburgh University, which becomes vacant at the end of the current academical year.

A Blue-book relating to the slave-trade has just been issued. It is a volume of 382 pages, and contains 362 despatches and 36 reports from naval officers. The dates range from the latter part of the year 1875 to the end of 1876. A large number of the despatches are occupied with reports of the seizure and condemnation of Zanzibar slave-vessels. There is also a despatch from Lord Derby, dated October 24, 1876, calling the attention of the United States Government to the proceedings of Mr. Stanley in Central Africa, as appearing to be little calculated to promote civilisation there, "or win the goodwill of the native tribes towards travellers who have that object in view."

An application was made on Friday to the Lord Chief Justice, at the Central Criminal Court, for the postponement until next sessions of the trial of the four prisoners charged with the murder of Harriet Staunton at Penge. The ground of the application was that the prisoners had not been able to obtain certain medical evidence, which would be forthcoming on their behalf if their trial were postponed. The Attorney-General, who attended to prosecute, did not oppose the application; but the Lord Chief Justice, in granting it, said he thought it was an unreasonable one, and he doubted whether both himself and the Attorney-General were not doing wrong in acceding to it. The trial, therefore, stands postponed.

The marriage of the Lady Mayoress (Miss Ada Louisa White) with Mr. Cecil Herbert Thornton Price took place on Thursday afternoon at St. Paul's Cathedral. The Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Bishop of Ely, officiated. There

were sixteen bridesmads. This is the first occasion on which there has been a marriage in the cathedral since 1758.

At the opening of the Irish Royal Agricultural Show on Wednesday, in Galway, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Duke of Marlborough, in responding to the toast, "Prosperity to Ireland," spoke at some length on the various topics associated with the sentiment. In agricultural matters the most striking feature was, he said, an increase of 64 000 acres in meadow land. The wages of the agricultural labourer had been raised, the drainage system had been extended, and there was an increase in the amount deposited in savings-banks.

The Grand Shereef of Morocco, Sidi el Hadj Abd-es-Salem, Prince of the House of Wazan, accompanied by the Shereeffa, an English lady, and their two children, with several attendants, arrived at Charing-cross on Friday. The Prince's visit is of a private character, and it is not yet known how long he will stay in England.

The Home Secretary has addressed a letter to the Lord Mayor, making suggestions with a view to the suppression of the practice of buying or stealing children from Italy to beg about the streets. Mr. Cross points out how the "padroni" can be prosecuted, and the children sent to industrial schools, and requests the Lord Mayor to cause instructions in accordance with these suggestions to be issued to the City police.

A letter from Mr. Bright has been published in refutation of some statements made by Sir C. Gavan Duffy, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria. The latter had attributed to Mr. Bright an acquiescence in a modified form of protection for Australia. Mr. Bright supposes that something in Mr. Stuart Mill's works has been inadvertently attributed to him; and he thoroughly repudiates the notion that he could have given support to Protection in any shape.

A narrow escape of the Scotch Midland express is reported. The axle of the right-hand driving wheel of the engine broke on Friday afternoon at Kirkstall, in Yorkshire. Fortunately the engine did not leave the rails, and the driver succeeded in stopping the train, which was running at the rate of forty miles an hour. None of the passengers were injured, but they were detained at Kirkstall nearly two hours. The down main line was so damaged that traffic was not resumed for three hours. A composite Pullman car was broken.

A miner of Botallack Mine, St. Just, near Penzance, lost five sons by fire on Friday night. He was at a prayer-meeting. His wife put the five youngest children—all boys, the eldest being nine years old—to bed, and left home to seek the two eldest. The house caught fire, was burnt to the ground, and the poor children were burnt to cinders.

The first stone of a new bridge over the Regent's Canal at Gloucester-gate was laid on Saturday by Mr. G. J. Noel, M.P., the First Commissioner of Works.

The charge of conspiracy against the three detectives and Mr. Froggatt, a solicitor, was resumed before Sir James Ingham at the Bow-street Police-court on Saturday. The examination-in-chief of the convict Kurr, which had occupied the whole of five previous sittings, was at length concluded, and Mr. Montagu Williams commenced a cross-examition which elicited from the witness statements implicating several other officers of the detective force in London and the country, and in America. The case was adjourned until Thursday next.

On Saturday Earl Russell celebrates his eighty-fifth birthday. It is sixty-four years since he first entered Parliament as member for Tavistock, and thirty-one since he assumed his first Premiership.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. William Lovett.—We regret to announce the death of Mr. William Lovett, which took place early on Wednesday morning. Mr. Lovett was at one time well known as an earnest and advanced political reformer, having helped to frame the People's Charter. About forty years ago he suffered imprisonment on a charge of sedition, based on language and conduct which in the present day would be regarded as by no means justifying such an accusation. Later in life Mr. Lovett withdrew from politics, and occupied himself with works on physiology for the use of schools, and other educational books. An interesting record of his career is to be found in a small volume of autobiography published by him a few years ago.

The Borough of Greenwich. — Dr. Baxter Langley, against whom legal proceedings for conspiring to defraud are pending, has issued the following address to the electors of Greenwich:—"Gentlemen,—Though I feel in my own conscience that I am not less worthy of your support than heretofore, I am assured by my friends that the imputations cast upon me by the cruel action now pending are fatal to my future candidature for your suffrages. I therefore withdraw at once, in the hope that such prompt action may serve the interests of the political party for whom I have spent my means and the best years of my life.—J. Baxter Langley." Dr. Langley has been before the borough as a candidate for Parliamentary representation for about twelve years.

Another Insect Pest.—While the phylloxera is ravaging the vineyards and the Colorado beetle threatening the potato fields of France, yet another plague is reported to have appeared in the Pyrenean districts. This time it is the groves and woods of chesnut-trees which are menaced. According to the *Courrier de Bayonne*, a large number of these trees in the canton of Espelette and elsewhere have been attacked by small black insects, having shining bodies, with six legs and small wings, but apparently incapable of flying. These insects, it seems, eat their way in beneath the bark of the tree at the level of the ground, and then work round the tree between the bark and the hard wood, up to a height of some ten feet. The conducting vessels of the sap being thus destroyed, the trees soon dry up and wither. The insects are generally followed by a species of worm, which ascends even higher than the former, eating channels not only beneath the bark, but even into the hard wood of the tree. The losses already occasioned by these two scourges are stated by the *Courrier* to be very great. Entire plantations have been destroyed, the oldest and strongest trees being attacked as well as the young and tender.

The Christ's Hospital Inquiry.—The report of the committee of inquiry into the circumstances of the death of William Arthur Gibbs, a scholar in Christ's Hospital, and into the general management of the hospital, has been published. The committee find that the allegations as to the conduct of the deceased boy have been substantially proved, and exonerate the authorities of the school and the monitor under whom Gibbs was placed. They find many serious causes of complaint in the general management of the school, but these, they say, are due not to the shortcomings of individuals, but to faults inherent in the system. The committee recommend the removal of the school. They say, "If Christ's Hospital is to be retained as a great boarding-school, there seems to be no antecedent reason why it should be placed in Loudon; and we are given to understand that the sum which might be realised by the sale of the present site would much more than provide for the cost of removal. Like the Schools Inquiry Commissioners, we feel a great unwillingness to aid in destroying the ancient traditions and venerable memories of the place. But these associations may be too dearly purchased, and for a thorough reform in the management and discipline of the school, we think that its removal from London is indispensable."

London School Board.—The Mark Wilks Scholarships (Nos. 1 and 2).—Mr. Mark Wilks, member of the School Board for London for the Finsbury Division, has placed in the hands of the School Board for London a sum of money subscribed by several personal friends, for two scholarships, one for boys, and the other for girls, each of the average annual value of 25*l*, and tenable for three years. The following are the regulations of the scholarships:—1. The annual income in each case shall be applied for the maintenance of one scholarship to be called the "Mark Wilks Scholarship (No. 1) for Boys," and the "Mark Wilks Scholarship (No. 2) for Girls," respectively, and of one scholar to be called the "Mark Wilks Scholar" (No. 1) and (No. 2) respectively. 2. Each of the scholarships may be held in connection with any public school within the limits of the "Metropolis," of a higher class than public elementary schools, at which the scholar shall attend with the approval of the Board and of his parent. The annual income shall be applied, in the first place, in payment of the school fees and other sums payable for the purpose of maintaining the scholar at the school; and the surplus income (if any) shall be applied for the general maintenance and education of the scholar, at the discretion of the Board. —*School Guardian.*

The Transvaal Annexation.—Mr. Alexander M'Arthur, M.P., during the recent debate on the South Africa Bill in committee of supply, read the following letter addressed to him by the Rev. Dr. Moffat, the venerable father-in-law of Dr. Livingstone:—"Blackheath, July 27.—My dear Sir,—I have no words to express the pleasure the annexation of the Transvaal territory has afforded me. It is one of the most important measures our Government could have adopted, as regards the Republic as well as the aborigines. I have no hesitation in pronouncing the step one fraught with incalculable benefit to both parties—*i.e.*, the settlers and the native tribes. A residence of more than half a century beyond the colonial boundary is quite sufficient to authorise me to write with confidence that Lord Carnarvon's measure will be the commencement of an era of blessing to Southern Africa. I was one of a deputation appointed by a committee to wait on Sir George Clerk at Bloemfontein to prevent, if possible, his handing over the Sovereignty, now the Free States, to the immigrant Boers. Every effort failed to prevent the blunder. Long experience had led many to foresee that such a course would entail on the tribes conterminous oppression, slavery *alias* apprenticeship, &c. Many a tale of woe could be told arising, as they expressed it, from the English allowing their subjects to spoil and exterminate. Hitherto the natives have been the sufferers, and might justly lay claim to compensation.—Yours very sincerely, Robert Moffat. Mr. Alexander M'Arthur, M.P."

Harvest Prospects.—Mr. Mechi writes to the *Times* from Tiptree Hall, Kelvedon, Essex:—"Harvest, which commenced in this district on Aug. 1, is interrupted by a soaking rain, that has, however, greatly improved the second crops of clover and grass, and will continue the previous favourable prospect of an abundant root crop. It also enables us to plant cabbage as a second crop. The wheat crop varies considerably. Owing to the long wet winter and cold spring, the crop is thin, especially on undrained soils. The ears are, however, large, and well filled with plump kernels. The general opinion is that it will not, or will barely, reach an average. Spring crops went in late on many soils, and are backward, but much improved. They are generally considered under average. Peas and beans are not well filled. The hay crop has been a good one, and the stock food is generally very promising." Harvest operations have made great progress in Berkshire and the bordering counties of Bucks, Oxon, Hants, and Wilts, and reports from these districts agree as to the inferiority of the wheat crop compared with that of last year. A parcel of wheat threshed out in Berkshire during last week proved to be much below the average both as regards quantity and quality, and this appears to be the general impression of the yield as a whole. Barley and oats, on the other hand, are considered favourable, and beans and hay are excellent crops, but peas are generally a bad yield. Roots promise well, though the fly has been very busy among the swedes in some localities.

The Fruit Crop.—The *Gardener's Chronicle* of Saturday last contains its annual report on the condition of the fruit crops—and very disheartening it is to read, so uniformly bad is almost everything reported to be. Apricots, it seems, were almost uniformly below the average, and in some cases utter failures. Sussex and Hereford are, however, exceptions to the rule. Plums are almost invariably much below an average, and may generally be registered an utter failure. Cherries were generally under the average, with the exeeption of morellas, of which in many places the crop is reported to be good. Peaches and nectarines, as might be expected, are almost non-existent. Apples in by far the large majority of cases are below the average; in a few cases they are spoken of as an average, while in certain localities in Lancashire, Buckinghamshire, Suffolk, and Sussex, the crop is recorded as over the average. Turning to small fruits, such as currants, gooseberries, and raspberries, a different tale is told. The crop of these fruits has in general been large. Of cobs and filberts there is a great promise of abundance, but walnuts are scarce. Our contemporary remarks that good fruit years are the exception rather than the rule; thus, taking the record from 1870 to the present time, we find that in 1870 the crop was, generally speaking, abundant; in 1871 scanty and late; in 1872, a complete failure; in 1873, under the average; an average in 1874, unusually abundant in 1875, very unsatisfactory in 1876; while the wet autumn of last year and the cruel spring of the present have rendered the season of 1877 the worst of the series.

Osyter Cultivation.—Mr. E. Thurstan Holland, one of the inspectors of the Board of Trade, is engaged at Sheerness in holding an inquiry respecting an application made by Mr. Jean François Nicolas Biesman Simons, of Fowke's-buildings, Great Tower-street, London, to the Board of Trade, for the grant of an order for the establishment and maintenance of an oyster and mussel fishery on the north side of the Isle of Sheppey. The promoters of the scheme are being represented in the inquiry by Mr. Wright, of London; the Leigh fishermen by Mr. Arthy, of Rochford; and the Queenborough fishermen by Mr. Wiglesworth, of Queenborough. The promoters state that they propose to expend 3,000*l*. upon the grounds to fit them for the breeding and rearing of oysters and mussels of the most superior kind, and making provision for dredging, storing, and disposing of the fish; and, if successful in these efforts, they intend spending a further sum of money upon the grounds in developing their scheme. The promoters conclude their application, which is for an order to remain in force for sixty years, by stating that the only person whose interest would be directly concerned was Mr. Higgs, the lord of the manor, who would receive an annual rent for the use of the foreshore. The inspector had gone over the proposed fishery and dredged on the grounds, being accompanied by some Queenborough fishermen. Having heard the evidence of the promoters, and the evidence of those who object to the order being granted, the inspector will present a report to the Board of Trade, together with his opinion thereon.

Medical Aspect of the Temperance Question.—At a public meeting held on Thursday evening at the Association Hall, Manchester, addresses were delivered on the medical aspect of the temperance question. There was a large attendance. Mr. Edward Jackson presided. Dr. Norman Kerr, London, spoke upon the use of alcohol as a medicine. He did not altogether denounce the employment of alcohol by doctors, but it appeared to him that, in view of the enormous evils caused by the drinking habits of the people, intoxicating liquors should be prescribed with the utmost care, and never unless they were absolutely required. He found that in 30,000 cases which he had attended, and of which he had notes, he had prescribed only three-quarters of a pint bottle of alcohol. He was of opinion that alcoholic liquor increased disease and shortened life; it made men less useful citizens and weaker Christians; whilst, on the other hand, abstinence produced improved health and lengthened life. He moved—"That the common use of alcohol is injurious in health, and it should be prescribed with as much care as any other drug." Mr. T. Carson, of Liverpool, in seconding the resolution, condemned the use of alcohol by healthy persons,

its effects upon the system being totally injurious; and he did not think it was of use even in disease. Mr. S. S. Alford (London) delivered an address upon the subject of controlling habitual drunkards. The resolution was carried. Dr. J. J. Ritchie (Leek) moved:—"That, conscious of the great moral and social degradation caused by drink, this meeting would respectfully urge the medical faculty to exercise its powerful influence in abating these evils." He said he believed that in times past the medical profession had been exceedingly lax in its duty with regard to this matter, but he was glad to think that it was gradually placing itself on the side of the temperance movement. Mr. H. Lancaster (Leicester) seconded the resolution, which was passed. A third resolution, thanking the medical gentlemen who had attended the meeting for their advocacy of the temperance cause, was also carried. A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding terminated the proceedings.

A DEVONSHIRE WIZARD.—Considerable excitement was manifested in the neighbourhood of South Molton, North Devon, lately, in consequence of an old man, aged eighty-six, living at Westdown, near Barnstaple, being charged with "using certain subtle craft, means, or device, by palmistry and otherwise, to deceive and impose on certain of Her Majesty's subjects." For some time past a woman named Elizabeth Sanders, living at Bishop's Nympton, has been ill, and as doctors had been of no avail, on Saturday, the 4th inst., her husband sent for the defendant, whose name is Harper, and who is known by the name of the "White Witch," but who calls himself a herbalist. Harper went to the house of deceased, felt her pulse, and said he did not know whether he could do her any good, as he was only a humble instrument in the hands of God. He gave her four or five iron rods in succession, with which she tapped a piece of iron which she held in her hand while lying in bed. At the ends of the rods were the names of different planets, such as Jupiter and Mercury. He asked the age of the woman and the hour she was born, saying he wanted to find out under what planet she was born. He also gave her some bitters to take. She died a few days afterwards. The defence was that the rods and the piece of metal were a rude means of using electricity, by which means the defendant had made many cures, but no explanation was given as to the meaning of the names of the planets. It was proved that the "White Witch" charged the woman 25s. for his services, and that he had stayed in the house five hours. Several witnesses were called who stated that they had been cured by the defendant's magic rods when nobody else could cure them. The bench, on which was Lord Poltimore, sentenced the defendant to a month's imprisonment. Notice of appeal was given, and the prisoner was bailed out. —*Daily News.*

SIR JOHN BENNETT AND THE ALDERMEN.—On Saturday the second poll for an alderman to represent the Ward of Cheap took place, and ended with the same result as on the previous occasion, the return of Sir John Bennett. At four o'clock the Lord Mayor announced that the poll was closed, and that the votes recorded were: For Sir John Bennett, 217; for Mr. Deputy Breffit, 99. His lordship declared accordingly that the election had fallen on Sir John Bennett. The successful candidate, in addressing the large crowd assembled, said the issue of the contest was very satisfactory to him, as he would rather be the electors' alderman than the aldermen's alderman. He should do his best to exert a courtesy and a power of gentlemanly conciliation, which would, he hoped, render him an agreeable colleague of the august body into which he meant to go, and from whence he had come. In an address to the electors, Sir John says:—

To-day, by a majority of two to one, I am again declared by the Lord Mayor to be duly elected your alderman. This once more conclusively affirms that I am the man of your deliberate choice. I feel now that, assured of your determined resolve to return me as your representative, my brother aldermen will accept your decision as final. It will remain to me to prove to you and to them, by my acting up to the high dignity to which you have so decisively elected me, that my return will fully justify the confidence you have reposed in me.

It is said that should the aldermen again refuse to admit him, Sir John Bennett will apply to the Queen's Bench Division for a mandamus calling upon the aldermen to let him into his place. The question at issue then will be whether the Act of Parliament reforming the mode of election of aldermen and widening the franchise is to be held to have abrogated the aldermen's right of veto without mentioning it. On the one side, it is contended that the Act must be construed to have prescribed all that is necessary to make an alderman; on the other side, it is argued that as the veto existed under the old franchise it must exist under the new, not having been repealed.

Gleanings.

One of the old settlers at the Isles of Shoals, seeing the name of "Psyche" on the hull of a yacht, the other spelled it out slowly, and then exclaimed, "Well, if that ain't the biggest way to spell fish!"

"What would you do if mamma should die?" the pathetically asked of her little three-year-old daughter. "I dunno," remarked the infant, with downcast eyes and melancholy voice, "I thpose I should have to thpank mythelf."

"What's the use of making such a fuss about a little water?" said a judge before whom motion after motion had come in a case where a small spring was the object of contention. "The parties are both milkmen." "Oh! I see," said the judge.

A few days since a man convicted of drunkenness stood up before his worship at the police-court, and the latter, in his slow, solemn way, said, "I'll give you forty shillings or a month." "Well, I'll take the two sovs., your worship," replied the fellow with a grin. He got the month.

A little scarlet fever convalescent was overheard petitioning repeatedly, while about her play, "Oh, good Lord, cure my earache!" Her mother asked—"What are you saying, my dear?" "Nothing," said the little girl. "I wasn't talking to you. I'm talking to the Lord."

In the familiar manner which was wont to be not uncommon in country kirks, a minister stopped in the course of his sermon one day, and thus addressed a parishioner who was somewhat deaf: "Are ye hearing, John?" "Oh, yes, sir," was John's prompt reply; "I am hearing, but to very little purpose."

The wife of a sexton belonging to one of the churches in a very healthy locality was interrupted in the middle of a harangue upon the hardness of the times, by a person who desired to sell her a couple of ducks. "Ducks!" exclaimed she, "how can I buy ducks or anything else? We have not buried a living soul these six months."

When Mrs. Van Auken installed a Chinaman in her kitchen, "What is your name, sir?" asked she. "Oh, my namee Ah Sin Foo." "But I can't remember all that lingo, my man. I'll call you Jimmy." "Velly welle. Now wache namee I callee you?" asked Ah Sin, looking up in sweet simplicity. "Well, my name is Mrs. Van Auken; call me that." "Oh! me can no 'membel Missie Yanne Auken. Too big piecee namee. I callee you Tommy—Missee Tommy."

THE AUSTRALIAN SERVANT AND THE CAT.—A lady, having a native girl as servant in Tasmania, called her away during her dinner-time for some purpose, when the cat ran away with the girl's dinner, to her great dismay. The lady then heard the girl scolding the cat in these terms: "You wicked woman, you steal my dinner—you no go to heaven." On the lady explaining to her that cats don't go to heaven, she replied, "Last Sunday teacher said God puts the goats on the one side and the sheep on the other; and if sheep go to heaven, why not cats?"—*What I Saw in Australia.*

TOO HASTY.—A Dedham business man wended his way home to dinner the other day, and, arrived at the house, was surprised to find all the doors locked. Fearing that some serious mishap had befallen the partner of his joys and sorrows, and none of the neighbours being able to give him any information, he procured a hatchet and broke an entire window-sash to fragments. Upon crawling into the room he found the following note lying upon the table: "Dear Hubby, I have gone to hear Moody and Sanky. You will find the key to the front door on the left-hand corner of the porch, and some cold ham in the pantry. I will pray for you."

SAMBO'S PRESCRIPTION.—A gentleman in Virginia, when exerting himself one day, felt a sudden pain, and fearing some internal injury, sent for a negro living on the plantation, who made pretension to medical skill, to prescribe for him. The negro, having sagely investigated his case, prepared and administered a dose, with the utmost confidence of a speedy cure. No relief being obtained, however, a regular physician was sent for, who on arriving inquired of the negro what he had given. Sambo promptly responded, "Resin and alum, sir!" "What did you give them for?" continued the doctor. "Why," replied Sambo, "de alum to draw de parts togedder, and de resin to soder 'em!"

A 'CUTE METHODIST MINISTER.—The Rev. Daniel Isaacs once alighted at an inn to stay the night. On asking for a bed, he was told he could not have one, as there was to be a ball that evening, and all the beds were engaged. "At what time does the ball break up?" asked Mr. Isaacs. "About three in the morning, sir." "Well, then, can I have a bed until that time?" "Yes, certainly; but if the bed is asked for, you will have to remove." "Very well," replied Mr. Isaacs; and away he went to get between the sheets. About three in the morning he was awakened by loud knocking at his chamber door. "What do you want?" he asked. "How many are there of you in here?" inquired a voice. "There's me, and Daniel, and Mr. Isaacs, and an old Methodist preacher," was the reply. "Then, by Jupiter, there's plenty of you!" and the speaker passed on, leaving Mr. Isaacs to enjoy his bed.

TEETH, £1 TO £10 10s.—THE COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SET OF FOURTEEN PURE MINERAL TEETH, fitted and fixed to the mouth without pain. The extraction of stumps, loose or decayed teeth not being necessary in any case. This perfectly painless system of adapting artificial teeth to the mouth is protected by Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent; and a written guarantee given with every case that they will not decay or change colour. 54, Rathbone-place, Oxford-street, near Tottenham-court-road. Mr. M. E. Toomey, Surgeon-Dentist.

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.—Universally recommended by the Medical Profession. A pure old spirit, mild, mellow, delicious, and most wholesome. Dr. Hassall says:—"The samples were soft and mellow to the taste, aromatic and ethereal to the smell. The Whisky must be pronounced to be pure, well-matured, and of very excellent quality." Wholesale, 20, Great Titchfield-street, London, W.

ENGLAND VERSUS FRANCE.—For generations Chocolate has been imported in large quantities into this country from France. We are glad to find the tables turned at last, and that Cadburys, the Makers of the well-known Cocoa Essence, have opened elegant premises at 90, Faubourg St. Honoré, Paris.—Their Cocoa Essence being perfectly genuine is a beverage far better suited to warm climates than the thick heavy compounds of Cocoa with sugar and starch generally sold.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGES.

SUMMERS—HARRIS.—At Redland Park Congregational Church, Clifton, by the Rev. Urijah Rees Thomas, the Rev. W. Summers, Congregational Minister, Ringwood, Hants, to Charlotte Lucell, youngest daughter of the late Rev. George Harris, also of Ringwood.

COOPER—BRADEN.—Aug. 7, at the Baptist Chapel, Peckham Park-road, Robert George, son of W. Cooper, of Park-road, to Mary Higham, daughter of H. Braden, of Hanover Park, Peckham.

EDWARDS—GARSTANG.—Aug. 8, at New College Chapel, St. John's Wood, by the Rev. Johnson Barker, LL.B., R. C. Edwards, of Oxford-terrace, Hyde Park, to Ada, daughter of the late W. Garstang, of Manchester and Folkestone.

PICKLES—WADDINGTON.—Aug. 9, at the New Connexion Chapel, Hunslet-road, Leeds, by the Rev. J. Robinson, James, fifth son of the late Rev. A. Pickles, Congregational minister, to Annie, eldest daughter of Mr. F. Waddington, Marshall Hall, Elland.

KNIGHT—CLEMENTS.—Aug. 9, at the Bethnal Green-road Congregational Church, by the Rev. J. Stockwell Watts, John Ernest, son of John Edward Knight, Esq., to Eleanor Marther, eldest daughter of R. G. Clements, Esq., of South Hackney.

WALTERS—GAMBLE.—Aug. 9, at Stamford-hill Congregational Church, by the Rev. R. Vaughan Pryce, Alfred, eldest son of Alfred Walters, Esq., of Portland House, Stamford-hill, to Anne, daughter of the late William Gamble, Esq., of Belfast.

CURWEN—GREGG.—Aug. 11, at the Parish Church, Combe Hay, Somerset, by the Rev. Henry Sharpe, Vicar of Trinity Church, South Hampstead (cousin of the bride), John Spencer, eldest son of John Curwen, of Plaistow, to Annie Jessy, only child of the late John Cotter Gregg, Dublin, and granddaughter of the late William Gregg, of the City of Cork.

SHEPHARD—MOORE.—Aug. 11, at Cambridge Heath Congregational Church, by the Rev. Percy Strutt, Edmund Shephard, of Manor-road, Hackney, to Caroline, third daughter of the late William Moore, of Hackney.

DEATHS.

WONNACOTT.—Aug. 2, at Ferriby, the Rev. Henry Wonnacott, minister of Albion Congregational Church, Hull

HORTON—Aug. 6, at No. 4, Stoke-terrace, Devonport, Thomas Horton, Baptist minister, aged 80.

LOVETT—Aug. 8, at his residence, 137, Euston-road, William Lovett, in the 78th year of his age.

NEVILE.—Aug. 8, at Thorney, Christopher Nevile, aged 71.

OAKES.—Aug 9, Thomas Oakes, 25, Milton-place, Halifax, aged 68. Friends will kindly accept this intimation.

PYE-SMITH.—Aug. 10, at Summerfield, Sheffield, Margaret Anna, fifth daughter of the late John William Pye-Smith, of that town, aged 26.

TEMPLETON.—Aug. 10, at his residence, 33, Wolsey-road, Stoke Newington, Mr. Allan Templeton, in his 78th year.

EPPS'S CACAOINE (Quintessence of Cacáo).—Cacáoine possesses the essential principle of cacáo, theobromine, unclogged by excess of nutritives and over-richness, as found in the natural cacáo nibs, and in chocolates and prepared cocoas generally. The cacáo flavour here becomes almond-like and intensified, and being unsweetened it affords when made an exhilarating warm drink, extremely fluid and refreshing and clean to the palate. Sold only in packets and tins, labelled "James Epps & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London."

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS give instant relief. Indigestion gives rise to a large share of the maladies of mankind; it occasions more miseries than the doctor knows names for. Indigestion springs from many causes, over which Holloway's Pills exercise the most perfect control They act at once on the stomach, liver, bowels, and kidneys, and correct their torpid, defective, or disordered functions. They restore the waning appetite, strengthen the feeble stomach, and spare the dyspeptic sick headache, and many nameless torments. They recall every organ to a true sense of its duties. Holloway's Pills have with facility cured cases of bad digestion which had existed for a long time and baffled much medical skill. They are reliable remedies for all varieties of indigestion.

PERFECTION.—Mrs. S. A. ALLEN'S World's Hair Restore never fails to restore grey hair to its youthful colour, imparting to it new life, growth, and lustrous beauty. Its action is speedy and thorough, quickly banishing greyness. Its value is above all others. A single trial proves it. It is not a dye. It ever proves itself the natural strengthener of the hair. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers.

Mrs. S. A. ALLEN *has for over 40 years manufactured these two preparations. They are the standard articles for the hair. They should never be used ogether, nor Oil nor Pomade with either.*

Mrs. S. A. ALLEN'S Zylo-Balsamum, a simple tonic and hair-dressing of extraordinary merit for the young. Premature loss of the hair, so common, is prevented. Prompt relief in thousands of cases has been afforded where the hair has been coming out in handfuls. It cleanses the hair and scalp, and removes dandruff. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers.

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RECKITT'S PARIS BLUE.—The marked superiority of this Laundry Blue over all others, and the quick appreciation of its merits by the public has been attended by the usual result—viz., a flood of imitations. The merit of the latter mainly consists in the ingenuity exerted, not simply in imitating the square shape, but making the general appearance of the wrappers resemble that of the genuine article. The manufacturers beg therefore to caution all buyers to see "Reckitt's Paris Blue" on each packet.

CARDINAL ECRU, OR CREAM.—JUDSON'S DYES.—White goods may be dyed in five minutes. Ribbons, silks, feathers, scarfs, lace, braid, veils, handkerchiefs, clouds, bernouses, Shetland shawls, or any small article of dress, can easily be dyed without soiling the hands. Violet, magenta crimson, mauve, purple, pink, ponceau, claret, &c., Sixpence per bottle. Sold by Chemists and Stationers.

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CLOCKS TO CLOCK PURCHASERS. JOHN BENNETT, having just completed great alterations in his Clock Show-Rooms, is enabled to offer to purchasers the most extensive Stock in London, comprising Clocks for the Drawing, Dining Rooms, and Presentation of the highest quality and newest designs at the lowest prices.

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DOWN TRAINS.—WEEKDAYS.			C	A	B	SUN. B
		a.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
LONDON (St. Pancras)	dep.	5 15	10 30	8 0	9 15	9 15
Edinburgh	arr.	4 30	8 40	6 0	7 45	7 45
Glasgow	„	5 0	9 5	...	7 50	7 50
Greenock	„	5 42	9 51	...	8 49	8 49
Perth	„	9 20	11 35	8 40	11 5	11 5
Aberdeen	„	3 20	3 20	12 40	4 5	4 5
INVERNESS	„	...	8 55	2 45	6 25	6 25
			D		E	

A—Pullman Sleeping Car from St Pancras to Perth. B—Pullman Sleeping Cars, St. Pancras to Edinburgh and Glasgow. C—Pullman Drawing-Room Cars, St. Pancras to Edinburgh and Glasgow.

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The 9 15 p.m. Express from St. Pancras reaches Greenock in ample time for Passengers to join the "IONA" Steamer. A through Carriage is run from St. Pancras to Greenock by this Train.

For further particulars see the Company's Time-Tables.

JAMES ALLPORT, General-Manager.

Derby, August, 1877.

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The Board of Management very earnestly APPEAL for further AID from the benevolent and friends of the fatherless, to maintain 280 Children now in the Asylum. There is no endowment.

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French, German, and Music (Practical and Theoretical) are made special objects of study, and most effectively taught.

Prospectuses, with names of Referees and full particulars, may be had on application to the Principals.

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The success of this School for thirty-six years arises from the fact that great attention is paid to subjects required in commercial life. Boys have excelled in good writing, arithmetic, French, book keeping, and mercantile correspondence. Pupils from this school have passed the Pharmaceutical Society's Examinations and the Oxford and Cambridge Local Examinations in honours. References to parents in all parts of England. Inclusive terms twenty-two or twenty four guineas.

For views and prospectus apply to the principals, Messrs. J. and J. W. Marsh.

SPRING HILL COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM.

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The SESSION of the FACULTY of SCIENCE (including the Department of the Applied Sciences), will begin on TUESDAY, October 2.

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The ANNUAL MEETING will be held afterwards in the Chapel, at Half-past One p.m.

There will be a Collation in the Schoolroom at Three p.m. Tickets Three Shillings each.

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In connection with the Conference of Old Students of the College, a Public Meeting will be held in King-street Chapel on Tuesday evening, September 4th, at Seven p.m., when Revs. R. Glover, Jas. Owen, R. Sampson, J. P. Barnett, A. Mursell, and other friends will address the meeting.

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Henry Gover, Esq., 3, Adelaide-place, London-bridge.

SECRETARY.
Mr. W. H. Basden, 92, Cannon-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.
John Thomas Bedford, Esq., 12, King-street, Snow-hill, and Mecklenburg-square (Chairman West Ham Park Committee).
James Clarke, Esq., 1, Cedars-road, Clapham, and 13, Fleet-street, E.C. (Editor and Proprietor of the "Christian World").
Charles Kemp Dyer, Esq., J.P., St. Albans, Herts, and Lloyd's.

BANKERS.
London and Westminster Bank, Lothbury.

1. 10,047 fully paid-up shares of £25 each, amounting to £251,175, have been allotted.
2. The third issue of 4,000 shares is now in course of allotment at £2 per share premium, which, at the current rate of interest, will yield a little over 5 per cent. to allottees.
3. Seventy-seven estates have been purchased at a cost of £271,923, and other purchases are in course of negotiation.
4. After making a full allowance for all rates, repairs, loss of rent, and diminution of term in the case of leaseholds, the income from the estates already purchased is expected to amount to nearly 8 per cent., besides profit on re-sales.
5. Shareholders, in addition to 5½ per cent. interest, will participate in the periodical bonuses, which, it is expected, will be declared by the Company from time to time.
6. As the estates purchased yield a good profit revenue, in order to protect the interests of existing shareholders, the third issue is offered to the public at £2 per share premium.
7. House property bought and sold.

For full information apply to
W. H. BASDEN, Secretary,

Of whom may be obtained notices of the Press, prospectus, report, "Five Minutes' Talk" about the Company, and share application forms.

BRITISH EQUITABLE
ASSURANCE COMPANY.
4, QUEEN STREET PLACE, E.C.

CAPITAL:—A Quarter of a Million Sterling.

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT, MAY, 1877.

2,348 New Policies issued for	£449,410
New Annual Premium Income of	12,950
22,594 Policies in force for	4,014,886
Annual Premium Income thereon	124,810
Death Claims, Matured Policies and Bonuses.	41,869
From commencement paid for Claims	389,411
Laid by in the Twenty-second year	60,255
Accumulated Fund increased to	500,097

AVERAGE REVERSIONARY BONUS:—One and a Quarter per Cent. per Annum.

Mutual Assurance without Mutual Liability.

Policies payable in Lifetime by application thereto of the Profits.

Separate use Policies.

THE GOVERNMENTS STOCK INVESTMENT COMPANY (Limited).

Paid-up Capital..... £500,000

DEPOSITS RECEIVED AT FOLLOWING RATES OF INTEREST.

5 per Cent. for Two Years and upwards.
4 „ „ One Year.
Less than One Year according to Bank rates.

Deposit Notes issued under the Seal of the Company, with cheques or coupons attached to the half-yearly interest.

SECURITY TO DEPOSITORS.—The Securities in which their monies are invested and the additional guarantee of the Paid-up Capital.

Prospectuses and full information obtainable at the Office, 52, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

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MAGNETINE.
DARLOW & CO.,
INVENTORS AND PATENTEES.

DARLOW'S MAGNETINE APPLIANCES,

Are unapproachable for comfort of wear, safety or use, and durability of magnetic power. They are used and recommended by gentlemen eminent in the medical profession. In cases of

Gout and Rheumatism, Spinal, Liver, Kidney, Lung, Throat, and Chest Complaints, Epilepsy, Hysteria, General Debility, Indigestion, Hernia, Sciatica, Asthma, Neuralgia, Bronchitis, and other forms of Nervous and Rheumatic Affections.

MAGNETINE is unique as a perfectly flexible Magnet. It is an entirely original invention of Messrs. DARLOW & Co., improved by them on their previous invention patented in 1868, and possessing qualities which cannot be found in any other magnet. It is soft, light, and durable, elastic, flexible, and permanently magnetic.

DARLOW'S MAGNETINE APPLIANCES.

MAGNETINE

TESTIMONIALS.

From GARTH WILKINSON, Esq., M.D M.R.C.S.E.
76, Wimpole-street, Cavendish-square, W., June 15, 1876.

F. W. Darlow, Esq.

SIR,—Since March, 1874, when I wrote to you to express my opinion, from experience, of the value of your Magnetic Appliances, I have been frequently asked by letter if my certificate was genuine, and if in the time since elapsed your inventions still approved themselves as beneficial in my practice. To both those questions I can answer by endorsing Magnetine as an arm which I am obliged to resort to in a good many cases.

In addition to the cases I before specified I can now add some experience of the utility of Magnetine in cases of debility, and as a local remedy in painful affections arising in the course of gout. Indeed, I am accustomed to prescribe it wherever topical weakness proceeds from a low vitality in the great nervous centres, or in the principal organs of assimilation, nutrition, and blood purification; also in weak throats from nervous exhaustion affecting the larynx.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
GARTH WILKINSON, M.D., M.R.C.S.E.

From CHARLES J. PLUMPTRE, Esq., Lecturer on Public Reading and Speaking, King's College, London.
36, Hamilton-terrace, Maida-vale, March 10, 1877.

DEAR SIR,—I have had in the last few weeks more inquiries than ever in regard to my case as stated in the testimonial I sent you for insertion in your pamphlets. Some of the inquiries have been by letters, which I have duly answered, saying I have continued as well as a man can possibly be since wearing your Magnetic Belts, and those strangers who have called here, and seen my present robust condition, say they can scarcely believe or realise the fact that I could have been in the utterly prostrate condition I was when I first ordered the Belts from you. But I assure them all that there is not the slightest exaggeration in the statement I sent to you now nearly a year and a half ago. My sister-in-law, Mrs. Wade, of Dawlish, to whom I strongly recommended the Belts for chronic rheumatism, writes word that since she has worn them she has been much benefited. Mr. Serjeant Cox also tells me that since wearing the Belt for his sciatica he has been very much better. You will be glad to hear that, though in the fullest work from morning to night, I have never had the slightest return of any of the distressing symptoms of weight and pain in the brain, not even the slightest approach to an attack of giddiness, since my letter of testimonial was written to you, and, in fact, I am now as strong and well as a man can possibly be. I still always wear the body and spine Bands by day, and they are so comfortable and pleasant to wear that I think I shall continue to do so for the rest of my life, if you advise.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
CHARLES J. PLUMPTRE.
To F. W. Darlow, Esq.

From the Rev. CHARLES GARTH FULLERTON.
Boothby Graffoe Rectory, Lincoln, May, 18, 1877.

DEAR SIRS,—I enclose cheque for the Wristlet and Belt for my friend, and have great pleasure in saying that I have certainly found the Belt you sent me last November to be of the greatest benefit. With perfect truth I can say I should not like to be without one now. I have had no lumbago or rheumatism since I began to wear it; and you are quite welcome to use this letter as a testimonial.—Yours faithfully,
(Rev.) CHARLES GARTH FULLERTON.
To Darlow and Co., 443, West Strand, London.

MESSRS. DARLOW & CO.

Are honoured by the patronage of many of the highest families in the kingdom, including Ladies and Gentlemen in Her Majesty's Household and Members of both Houses of the Legislature. Gentlemen of the Legal and other learned Professions, Officers in the Army and Navy, Clergymen of all Denominations, Bankers, Merchants, etc., who have testified of the benefits derived from the use of Magnetine.

DARLOW & CO., SOLE PROPRIETORS,
443, WEST STRAND, LONDON, W.C., 443,
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Descriptive Pamphlets post free on application.

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